

6 Irish UNIFIL troops hurt in blast

TEL AVIV (R) — Six Irish soldiers of a U.N. peace-keeping force in Lebanon were wounded Wednesday when commandos exploded two remote-controlled bombs under the sleeping quarters of 18 Irish troops, a spokesman for the United Nations Truce Supervision Force in Lebanon (UNTSF) said. "We have no idea who did it," spokesman Timmy Gotsel told Reuters by telephone from UNIFIL headquarters in Naqura, Lebanon. "It is the first time such an attack has been made against UNIFIL." The blast shook the building in the southern Lebanese village of Tibnin at 2 a.m. (2400 GMT) as the members of the Irish contingent were asleep. "The perimeter wire of the position was cut... and we believe that two explosives placed against pillars went off," Gotsel said. "Three more camouflaged in containers were found against other silos under the building."

Jordan Times

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AOAD to spend \$400,000 on aid

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) will spend \$400,000 during 1987 on a number of training courses and in the form of technical aid to Arab states, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said here Wednesday. Speaking at the end of a AOAD three-day meeting here the minister said that the organisation also recommended that a project for building a green belt around Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia to prevent desertification should go ahead as scheduled, and that the project's headquarters should be located in Amman. Mr. Hmoud who was elected chairman of the organisation's Technical Committee said that the delegates who represented 18 Arab countries also approved the organisation's work plan for 1987, and programme for holding conferences, seminars and training courses and offering technical aid to Arab states.

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Gemayel to visit Jordan

AMMAN (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel will pay a three-day private visit to Jordan from Feb. 4, during which he will have talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Lebanon's ambassador to Jordan said Wednesday. "The discussions between King Hussein and President Gemayel will be held in an informal atmosphere and could have extremely important results," Ambassador Butros Zideh told Reuters. The president will be accompanied by his wife.

Swaredadhab due in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Marshal Abdul Rahman Swaredadhab who headed Sudan's transitional military council, is due here on Sunday on a visit to Jordan at the invitation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Marshal Swaredadhab, who will be accompanied by his wife, is scheduled to meet with Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and the commander-in-chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces. During the week long visit, the Sudanese leader will tour archaeological sites and other places of interest in the Kingdom. His visit to Jordan will be the first outside Sudan since he handed over power to the civilian government.

U.S. restricts travel to Lebanon

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration announced Wednesday it was forbidding Americans to travel to Lebanon unless they had U.S. government approval. State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters American passports could not be used for travel to or through Lebanon unless officially validated for that purpose. "Effective immediately, U.S. passports are not valid for travel to, in or through Lebanon unless specifically validated," he said.

Gorbachev ousts Brezhnev aide

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev consolidated his authority in the Communist Party Wednesday with the removal from the ruling politburo of a former close aide of the late President Leonid Brezhnev. The official news agency TASS said Dimnikhamed Kmyayev, former party leader in the central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan, was dropped at a session of the party central committee in Moscow. The central committee also promoted Alexander Yakovlev, a close personal aide to Mr. Gorbachev, to non-voting membership of the politburo. It elected two new central committee secretaries, the men who are responsible for running the party machine on a day-to-day basis.

Nicaragua frees accused U.S. spy

MIAMI (AP) — Sam Nesley Hall, accused of spying in Nicaragua, flew home to the United States Wednesday after telling the Nicaraguan people he was sorry he "tried to ambush them." Nicaragua's Sandinista government said it released Hall, a self-styled soldier of fortune, because he is mentally unstable.

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Arab leaders meet in spirit of reconciliation

Islamic summit extended one day

KUWAIT (R) — The leaders of five Arab countries met Wednesday to try to overcome differences as a spirit of reconciliation prevailed at the Islamic summit here.

Conference sources said the leaders of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Algeria and Syria met for two hours during a break in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit.

The triennial OIC gathering was due to have ended Wednesday night, but delegates said it had been extended to Thursday. Kuwait has been trying to move Arab leaders towards a full heads of state meeting that has eluded them because of inter-Arab conflicts.

The conference sources said the main goal of Wednesday's meetings was to sound out prospects for a full Arab gathering. But they said the leaders apparently failed to agree on either an agenda or time. The OIC summit has already been the stage for an ice-breaking side chat between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Delegates said they chatted briefly Tuesday night after entering a plenary session hand-in-hand.

Masri hails meeting

Foreign Minister Taher Masri Wednesday hailed the meeting between Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

Petra quoted Mr. Masri as saying that the meeting was "extremely useful" and beneficial.

The foreign minister also hailed the official return of Egypt to the OIC.

Mr. Masri said that the summit's agenda was mostly on Arab subjects and that it was a great opportunity for Arab leaders to meet and discuss mutual interests.

next summit venue, for which Senegal is the strongest contender, will be decided later.

In another move to reduce inter-Arab tension, Mr. Assad Wednesday met Lebanese President Amin Gemayel for the first time in 13 months and said afterwards "we will multiply our efforts to overcome the Lebanese-Syrian difficulties."

One Arab rift the summit has made no apparent progress in healing is between Mr. Assad and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Syria opposes his bold on the PLO and backs Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim militiamen fighting Palestinian commandos at refugee camps in Lebanon.

Before winding up Thursday, the conference is expected to endorse resolutions calling on both sides in the Iran-Iraq war to stop fighting and on Iran to respond to mediation efforts.

The 6-1/2-year-old war, raging barely 80 kilometres from the conference site, has been the overriding concern of the summit.

PLO plans to evacuate Maghdousheh

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Palestinian fighters said Wednesday they planned to withdraw from a strategic village in south Lebanon, clearing a major stumbling block to a truce in the bloody "camps war" with Shi'ite Amal movement militiamen.

The move coincided with a meeting at the Islamic summit in Kuwait between Lebanon's President Amin Gemayel and Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad at which they pledged to work together to bring peace to the strife-torn country.

The fighters backing Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said they would pull back from the village of Maghdousheh which they captured from the Shi'ite Amal militia in late November. "The decision to withdraw on Thursday has been undertaken to give a chance to Iranian mediation," Chairman Arafat's main-stream Fatah group of the PLO said in a statement released in Sidon.

Mr. Arafat's supporters effectively blocked peace negotiations with the Amal when other Palestinian factions withdrew.

Palestinians call for action against Israeli expulsions

TEL AVIV (R) — Palestinian activists said Wednesday they were setting up a committee to protest against Israeli expulsions of Palestinians following the deportation of two Arabs in the past month.

Israeli officials say 12 Palestinians have been expelled from the occupied territories since a crackdown was launched in August 1985.

Twenty-five more Palestinians freed in a 1985 prisoner exchange for Israeli soldiers captured in Lebanon have been forced to leave because they had no residency papers for the West Bank and Gaza.

Activist Faisal Husseini at a news conference in occupied Jerusalem, called for Arabs to join the new committee. He is also a member of the Committee Confronting the Iron Fist, an Israeli-Palestinian group opposed to Israel's 20-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Two days ago, Israel expelled Palestinian Mohammad Dahlan, 26.

Israeli occupation authorities in the West Bank Wednesday sealed off five rooms in the home of a Palestinian suspected of planting a bomb on a Tel Aviv bus that wounded six people last year, Israeli officials said.

from Maghdousheh but the Fatah men dug in.

The village overlooks the main coastal highway linking Beirut with south Lebanon.

Mr. Arafat's men have insisted that Amal lift sieges of Palestinian refugee camps before they would withdraw.

Sporadic shelling continued in the camps war in Beirut Wednesday but no casualties were reported.

The Fatah statement called for "a quick lift of the sieges, to evacuate the wounded and to allow medical supplies into the settlements."

The Iranians have headed a drive to end more than four months of bitter fighting for control of five camps in Beirut and south Lebanon, in which at least 750 people have died and many have suffered acute deprivation.

Syria and Amal have charged Mr. Arafat with provoking the camps war in an effort to re-establish the PLO's Lebanon base lost after the 1982 Israeli invasion.

Mr. Arafat has accused Amal and the Syrians of seeking to crush Palestinian independence.

Hawke calls for Israel, PLO mutual acceptance

TEL AVIV (R) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Wednesday mutual acceptance by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would remove a major obstacle to Middle East peace.

"I think in fact the PLO recognises the state of Israel is here and is going to continue to be here and I think it is clear the Israeli government understands the fact that the PLO is the only organisation that can speak with some authority (for Palestinians)," Mr. Hawke told a news conference.

Mr. Hawke Wednesday met four prominent Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank. "The important thing... is to get the two sides to say what they

in fact recognise," he told reporters. "If that could be overcome, then this large primary obstacle (blocking peace) could be overcome."

Mr. Hawke said Israel should not deal with the PLO unless the organisation explicitly accepts Israel's right to exist but this acceptance should obligate Israel, in turn, to accept the PLO in the peace process.

The Australian leader said he opposed new Israeli Jewish settlements in occupied Arab areas.

The Palestinians who met the Australian leader were lawyer Jonathan Kuttab, Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, Philosophy Professor Sari Nusseibeh and Gaza doctor Hatem Abu Ghazaleh.

Troops launch teargas attack on Manila rebels

MANILA (R) — The Philippine army early Thursday resumed tear-gas shelling of 190 rebel soldiers holed up in a captured television station despite the strong objections of a large number of officers.

As the shelling sent clouds of smoke billowing over the Channel 7 compound, about 100 officers met for more than three hours with armed forces chief General Fidel Ramos to demand that he settle the rebellion without violence.

The rebels seized the television station Tuesday morning as part of a military revolt that was quickly suppressed elsewhere.

Participants at the meeting told Reuters during a break that Gen. Ramos agreed with them that bloodshed must be avoided to preserve army unity, but Defence Minister Rafael Ileta set a dawn deadline for the rebellion to end one way or another.

Taking part in the meeting were some of the officers of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) who played important roles in driving Ferdinand Marcos from power and installing Corazon Aquino as president.



Leaders from five Arab countries holding mini-summit in Kuwait. From left to right: The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah; Algerian President Chadli Benjedid; His Majesty King Hussein; Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia (Petra photo).

Leaders do not reach consensus on holding formal Arab summit

From Lamis K. Andoni in Kuwait

A MINI Arab summit, which was held on the fringes of the fifth Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) here on Wednesday, failed to produce an agreement on holding the thirteenth regular Arab summit in the near future.

The mini summit, which was attended by Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Kuwait and Syria, was held during the morning session of the OIC here. But senior Arab officials told the Jordan Times that Saudi Arabia was still objecting to the idea of holding the regular summit prior to an inter-Arab reconciliation.

Other Arab officials, however, said that the attendance of Egypt of a next summit was the major

point of disagreement. They said that while Jordan pressed for a re-admission of Egypt to the Arab League, Syria was still opposed to the idea, and the Saudis, are concerned that any such summit would not be boycotted by Syria. The next summit is expected to be held in Riyadh.

The failure of the mini summit has also led to the collapse of efforts to convene an unofficial Arab summit here on the sidelines of the OIC conference.

The failure of the summit followed an unexpected brief meeting between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday.

Both sides have denied that they actually met. But Arab offi-

cials told the Jordan Times that the meeting was pre-arranged by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The Egyptians, however, were deeply disappointed in Mr. Assad's speech, and denial of the meeting. "In Syria reacted so negatively to the reports of the meeting the Egyptians felt that they should not give any importance," a senior Arab official said.

The official said that the Egyptian delegation has informed other "friendly countries" that the meeting did not achieve any progress towards the normalisation of Syrian-Egyptian relations.

On Wednesday, however, Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid visited

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Iraqi troops launch counter attack as jets hit 2 tankers in Gulf

BAGHDAD (R) Iraq Wednesday night reported launching "horrifying" ground attacks on Iranian troops holding some of its southern territory as warplanes hit ten Iranian towns and two ships in the Gulf.

A High Command communiqué said units of the Third Army Corps, backed by heavy artillery further south, staged a "series of horrifying attacks on Iranian positions east of Basra," the southern Iraq port city.

"The Iranians were turned into scattered burnt corpses and their weapons were gutted by fire. The attacks sent thousands more Iranians to the crematory," the communiqué said.

It was the first word from Baghdad of counter-attacks fol-

lowing several daily reports of defensive action against Iranian troops who launched their "Karabala-5" thrust into southern Iraq on Jan. 9.

The Baghdad communiqué said "important portions" of territory had been regained by Iraqi forces which now had "full control over every inch of land at the battlefield."

Iraqi warplanes Wednesday attacked ten Iranian towns and two "large naval targets" which the Greek supertanker Tactic and a ship storing crude oil for Iran, the Dena.

The sources said the 105,422-ton Tactic was set ablaze, but there were no reports of casual-

ties in either attack.

Two Hawk surface-to-air missile bases were knocked out west of the Karun River in south west Iran and jets also hit a military camp in the northern town of Marivan, the Baghdad communiqué said.

Iraqi warplanes in the battle zone flew 300 sorties and helicopter gunships went out on 176 combat missions, the communiqué said. It denied Iranian reports that four aircraft were shot down.

Four people were killed and 14 others wounded by Iranian shelling of Iraq's north east town of Sulaymaniyah and four people were injured in an artillery attack on Basra, it added.

U.S. navy moves north in Gulf

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has moved five warships into the northern Gulf to support friendly Arab states and has sent an aircraft carrier closer to Lebanon, administration officials said Wednesday.

They said the moves are designed to show Iran and anti-American groups in Lebanon that Washington is ready to protect its interests in the Gulf and the Mediterranean.

"These are precautionary moves because of increased tensions in the area," one of the officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

"They (U.S. forces) are there prepared to demonstrate power and resolve and to reassure our friends in the region," said another, referring to the destroyers and frigates moving northward in the Gulf.

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian parliament, was asked at a news conference in Tehran if preparations for Iran's long-awaited "final blow" had been completed and if Iranian envoys to Turkey and Saudi Arabia this week had carried messages to that effect.

"This guess is not far off from reality," he replied. "The trips, too, are connected to this subject. Of course we will make the details public later."

U.K. ready to talk to radicals in Beirut

LONDON (R) — Britain is prepared to talk to radical militia groups in Lebanon to track down missing Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite and secure the release of Western hostages, British officials said Wednesday.

The Foreign Office said it had engaged in intensive diplomatic contacts with U.S. officials and other governments about Mr. Waite, who vanished in west Beirut on Jan. 20 while on a mission to negotiate the hostages' release.

The officials told Reuters that London would not hesitate to talk even to radical Shi'ite Muslim militiamen if they could help to find Mr. Waite and give assistance in the release of Western hostages.

"We are prepared to talk to any group which can help to get information about Waite," a government official said.

The Foreign Office also said the government would welcome information but added that Britain was not prepared to soften its opposition to rewarding terrorist organisations in return for their help.

"We will not make substantive concessions," a spokesman said. The Foreign Office said diplomatic coordination with the United States had become inevitable in the search for Mr. Waite as his latest mission focused particu-

larly on the freedom of two American nationals — journalist Terry Anderson of Associated Press and Beirut university dean Thomas Sutherland.

The British embassy in Beirut has in the past two days stepped up the search for Waite and other missing Britons.

A statement from Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, who expressed grave concern Tuesday about the safety of his personal envoy, said the church had not established Waite's whereabouts.

The Foreign Office said Wednesday: "We have had no news overnight and that is the period when it might be expected that he would be moving around."

"Our embassy is checking with its contacts but neither they nor the Druze militia who were guarding him have any information."

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher spoke to reporters about Mr. Waite for the first time since his disappearance, praising him as a man of enormous courage and bravery who believed in doing whatever he could to help hostages of whatever nationality.

"I have regretfully no more news of him. It is the way he works and, I think, his success in the way that he distances himself from government. I'm afraid I have no

(Continued on page 4)

King meets Arab, Islamic leaders

KUWAIT (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday met Arab and Islamic leaders currently attending the fifth Islamic summit.

The King held separate talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq.

The King also received the head of the Omani delegation to the OIC summit Thweini Iln Shehab who conveyed a message from Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said of Oman.

On Tuesday King Hussein conferred with a number of Islamic leaders.

The King met with the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifeh Ibn Hamad Al Thani, Iraqi Vice-President Izzat Ibrahim, President Hussein Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh and Tunisian Prime Minister Rashid Sfar. Also on Tuesday the King met with Moroccan Prime Minister Izuddin Laraki, the Emir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Turkish President Kenan Evren and Somali Foreign Minister Abdul Rahman Berri.

Arabic dailies to increase prices as of Feb. 1

By Salameh B. Ne'matt Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As of Feb. 1, the Kingdom's three Arabic dailies — Al Rai, Ad-Dustour and Sawt Al Shaab — will be sold for 75 fils instead of the current price of 50 fils, the Ministry of Information said Wednesday.

The government has approved the increase following a request by the publishers of the three dailies to raise the prices to offset a newspaper price hike and a decline in advertising revenues.

Publishers of the three dailies had furnished the Ministry of Information with invoices showing that over the last 12 months, newspaper prices increased three times, forcing newspapers in neighbouring countries, namely Kuwait and Egypt, to double their prices.

They said that prices of imported printing ink, films and film processing materials also increased.

Under the Jordanian Press and Publications Law, the government has to approve, a priori, any newspaper price increase.

Publishers said that another reason for the price raise is the low advertising rates in Jordanian papers compared to those in neighbouring countries.

The higher cost of living relative to that of 1978, the last time prices were raised, was also cited by the publishers as the cause behind the sought increase.

Newspapers were also hurt by a government decision last year to ban paid obituary announcements except by direct relatives of the deceased.

One publisher interviewed by the Jordan Times before the government decision approving the raise said that "if the price increase was not endorsed by the government, newspapers will be forced to cut their staff and reduce their services to their readers."

He explained that since 1978, newspapers have been expanding rapidly, employing more people and cultivating more news sources and agencies.

Furthermore, he added, newspapers, today, are published in 30 pages compared to the average 12 pages in 1978 when prices were raised from 40 to 50 fils.

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Rafsanjani shows reporters Bible signed by Reagan

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran's speaker of parliament Wednesday showed reporters a Bible he said had been signed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a news conference that Mr. Reagan sent the volume to the leaders of Iran as a sign of good faith during his secret initiative to improve ties with Tehran.

Reporters climbed on chairs to get a better view when he took the brown covered Bible out of its box.

They saw verse from the Bible, about unity of religions, inscribed on a blank page of the book.

The inscription was signed "Ronald Reagan" and dated Oct. 3, 1986.

When he first broke news of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran last year, Mr. Rafsanjani said a Bible had been among gifts from Mr. Reagan delivered to Tehran by former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane when he flew from Ireland aboard a plane carrying military spare parts.

This was the first time the purported gift had been displayed in public.

Photocopies of a page from an Irish passport in the name of Sean Devlin with a picture of McFarlane were handed out during Wednesday's news conference.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Wednesday Iran had now broken off arms purchase talks with the United States, but would still be prepared to buy weapons from Washington if there were no strings attached.

"When we see that the Americans show their hostility ... we do not find the circumstances suitable to continue talks with the Americans, and we have no new plan," the speaker told about 100 reporters and cameramen packed into a room in the Iranian parliament building.

He said Iran had not viewed the previous deal as an exchange of weapons for Americans kidnapped in Lebanon, but had expected Washington to show its goodwill — by releasing weapons Iran had paid for — if it wanted Tehran to help free the hostages, presumed held by pro-Iranian groups.

Iran's last contact with U.S. officials had been "about a month ago in Frankfurt," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

"A person named Dunbar, with a plan from the State Department,

accompanied the usual people," U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said in Washington Tuesday that he sent his aide Charles Dunbar to a meeting with Rafsanjani in Frankfurt on Dec. 13 to make clear "there will be no more arms sales of whatever variety."

Mr. Rafsanjani said the Iranian side at the Frankfurt talks, whom he described as "purchasing agents, working under intelligence officials," had been told not to accept the State Department "plan."

"We do not trust the United States any more. They are not honest," he said. "No plan will be accepted before they release our property."

He said he knew nothing about reports that Terry Waite, the Church of England envoy trying to secure the freedom of some of the Western hostages in Lebanon, had been "arrested" in Beirut.

But he said: "It is regrettable that someone who has acted to solve problems be entangled in a problem."

"We will definitely help (Waite) if we can. I don't know the details of his mission, but apparently it has been humanitarian."

Mr. Shultz said Dunbar, a State Department official, headed a two-man U.S. team that included George Cave of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the talks with an unnamed Iranian contact. Cave had held earlier contacts in this "channel."

Mr. Shultz said the date for the meeting had been set before he was placed in charge of U.S. policy towards Iran and planning and "implementing whatever contacts we may have with Iran." The president charged Mr. Shultz with managing policy toward Iran following the Nov. 25 revelation that U.S. arms had been sold to Iran.

The secretary dealt with the Dec. 13 contact in closed testimony last week before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and he said the impression that had emerged as a result of comments by various people concerning his testimony did not reflect his description of events.

"We continue to have the view, as I stated in my testimony, that we'd like to see their (Iran's) behaviour rearranged, and we believe there are reasons why it will be significant for them to have a better relationship with us," Mr. Shultz said. "We want to make that clear to them."

In the course of what Mr. Shultz described as "digging in to things," he said the CIA, which had been cooperating "readily and easily" with the State Department, made it known that there was "a meeting scheduled on Dec. 13 in Frankfurt between an agency person and the Iranian person that they had been dealing with."

Mr. Shultz said he decided, and the president concurred, that plans for the meeting should proceed and that the agency representative should be accompanied by a State Department representative who would be in charge of the delegation, and that "he should have set talking points and deliver them."

"The basic purpose of the meeting was to say through that channel as well as through the public statements the president had made, that any thought on their part that there were going to be further sales of arms was wrong," the secretary explained. "We just wanted to transmit that."

message in as many ways as possible, including through the person that the agency had been talking with. And we did that."

Speakers denies contacts

Meanwhile White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes denied assertions by Mr. Rafsanjani about continuing contacts with U.S. officials. He said Washington has not "initiated" any such contacts, adding he is "not aware that any meetings have taken place" since Mr. Shultz broke off contacts on Dec. 13.

A senior administration official added that "for a few days" after the December meeting in Europe, "those fellows were calling up, but our fellows were not talking to them," since Mr. Shultz had broken off the contacts when he learned Iran still wanted to swap arms for hostages.

The official said he is "reasonably sure" that there are, contrary to Mr. Rafsanjani's claim, "no direct shipments" of U.S. arms to Iran; when told Mr. Shultz had said on Capitol Hill that there are no direct or indirect shipments, he said he had dropped the indirect usage only to take into account the possibility that some third country "had a case" of rifles it might be selling.

U.S. plans to sell 52 F-16 jets to Bahrain, Egypt

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration has said it will sell 52 advanced F-16C/D fighter jets to Bahrain and Egypt for \$1.7 billion.

The Defense Department said in a statement to Congress that 12 of the jets would go to the Gulf emirate of Bahrain along with air-to-air missiles and other equipment for \$400 million. Cairo would buy another 40 for \$1.3 billion.

Egypt has already bought 80 F-16s but the deal with Bahrain would be the first sale of the jets to a Gulf nation. Saudi Arabia has bought F-15 jet fighters from the United States.

Chief contractor for the deals, which gain automatic approval, unless Congress opposes them within 30 days, is General Dynamics.

highly-sophisticated C/D version of the F-16s was announced amid concern among moderate Arab states about U.S. policy in the Middle East after the disclosure of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

Congressional sources told the Washington Post last week they expected the administration to take advantage of a flareup in the Iran-Iraq war to push for the sale to Bahrain, which has in the past bought less-sophisticated F-5 jets. "Bahrain needs these advanced fighters," the Pentagon said in the statement to Congress, which is not expected to oppose the sale.

"By contributing to the self-defence capability of the Bahrain Defence Force the proposed sale will decrease the likelihood of U.S. involvement in the Middle Eastern conflict," it said.

OIC chief calls for effective nuclear response

KUWAIT (AP) — Islamic nations must develop a "credible and effective response" to Israel's nuclear capability, the secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has declared.

Sharifuddin Firazadeh of Pakistan, the only Islamic nation known to have a developed nuclear programme, told the fifth OIC summit that Israel "would not hesitate to use these terrible weapons in any crisis."

Islamic nations must develop their technological and scientific capabilities "to achieve independence in this vital field" and "a dependable bulwark of defence against Israel's expansionist designs," he said in a report to the summit.

He said it was vital to develop a "credible and effective response" to Israel's nuclear capabilities. "We must also seek international guarantees against the use of threat of use of nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear Islamic states," he stressed.

Mr. Firazadeh charged that Israel has "rejected all efforts to find a comprehensive and peaceful solution to the conflict in the Middle East."

The Israelis have rebuffed a "proposal to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East, as decided upon by the U.N. General Assembly and endorsed by the OIC," he added.

He urged the OIC's 46 members, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, to "resolve our differences peacefully and pool our resources to confront the enemy."

He voiced deep concern over the Middle East situation and the Palestinian struggle for a homeland, which he termed "the prime cause of the Islamic nation."

He charged that the 6-year-old Gulf war has seriously weakened efforts to achieve Islamic unity and "depleted the resources of the entire Islamic nation."

"Our enemies no doubt are delighted at this state of affairs," he declared. "We can only mourn."

He said the Islamic World, spanning the Middle East, Africa and Asia, was in deep crisis because of the Gulf war and other conflicts that divide them.

Foreigners pressed to leave Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Students and teachers Wednesday escalated protest strikes over the kidnapping of four foreign academics in mainly Muslim west Beirut, which remaining Westerners are being pressed by their governments to leave.

Hundreds of students marched from Beirut University College (BUC) Wednesday morning to protest against the simultaneous abduction of one Indian and three American BUC professors on Saturday.

Some colleges closed on Monday in response to a one-day strike call from BUC officials. Wednesday's stoppage, also called by BUC, was complete in west Beirut, a deliberate escalation of the protest.

BUC officials have said their university will not close for good. The growing risk of abduction — 26 foreigners are now missing, believed kidnapped in Beirut — has caused Western governments to step up their efforts to persuade their nationals to leave or not visit Lebanon.

A British embassy spokesman said Tuesday night that Britons in Lebanon, particularly in Muslim west Beirut, had again been advised to leave.

"Our advice is that they should

leave unless they have compelling reasons to stay," he told Reuters Tuesday, hours after a group of French nationals left west Beirut for the Christian eastern sector.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that President Reagan was considering ordering remaining Americans out of Lebanon and revoking their passports if they failed to comply.

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said in Paris his government had urged French journalists to leave Beirut because of the risk of kidnapping.

Arab leaders urged to work for unity

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti newspapers Wednesday called on Arab leaders attending the Islamic summit here to overcome differences and work for unity.

The newspaper Al Rai Al Aam said Arab leaders should overcome obstacles to unity and not allow Arab causes to be weakened.

Leaders from 11 of the 22 Arab League members are in Kuwait. Delegates at the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting said host Kuwait was trying to arrange an informal summit of Arab leaders.

"The mountain of ice is starting to melt and hands have joined... those separated by political dif-

ferences have come together," the daily Al Qabas said in a front-page editorial.

The paper hailed a surprise gesture of friendship at the summit Tuesday when estranged President Hafez Al Assad of Syria and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt walked hand-in-hand into the conference hall.

OIC may give cautious approval of Soviet peace proposals on Afghanistan

KUWAIT (R) — Islamic leaders meeting here appear set to give a cautious nod to recent Soviet peace proposals on Afghanistan, where Moscow's intervention has strained its ties with Islamic states.

A draft resolution likely to be approved by an Islamic summit says a proposed Soviet pullout will remove a major obstacle in the relations between the Islamic countries and the Soviet Union," according to a text obtained by Reuters.

The pro-Soviet government in Kabul proposed earlier this month a ceasefire with Mujahideen rebels and a gradual pullout of Soviet troops from the Islamic country.

The draft repeats earlier Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) demands for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops.

But in an apparent softening of past declarations, it also calls for a "short time frame" for the withdrawal.

Neither Afghan rebels nor Soviet allies in the 46-member OIC — which suspended Afghanistan after the 1979 Soviet intervention — have expressed full support for the draft, proposed by Pakistan.

Tuesday welcomed what he called "positive signals" from the Soviet Union, although Afghan rebels have rejected anything short of a total unconditional pullout.

Moscow has been anxious to improve relations with the Islamic World, notably in the Gulf where it still lacks diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar.

In a conciliatory message to the summit, the Supreme Soviet said Moscow was in the process of pulling out some of its troops from Afghanistan and was ready to speed up withdrawal of the rest.

President Hafez Al Assad of Syria, a Soviet ally, urged the summit Tuesday night to respond favourably.

Friends of Moscow in the OIC say the draft resolution does not sufficiently welcome the Soviet initiative, delegates said.

Iraq, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Syria, Libya, South Yemen, Mali, Burkina Faso and Algeria — most of which have close Soviet ties — have made formal reservations.

It urges OIC members to establish closer cooperation with the Mujahideen and supports their role in the "restoration of the independent non-aligned status of Afghanistan and its identity as an Islamic country."

A rebel spokesman told Reuters the Mujahideen felt the draft did not go far enough.

"It is necessary for the OIC to accept the Mujahideen as the sole representative of our nation," he said.

The draft urges that a "short time-frame" for a Soviet pullout be presented at the next round of indirect talks in Geneva between the Pakistani and Afghan governments under U.N. auspices.

That clause is also opposed by the Mujahideen. "We have reservations about the negotiations in Geneva," a spokesman said. "They are not between the real parties in the conflict."

The talks are due to begin on Feb. 11 but Pakistani delegates said they had requested a postponement until after a forthcoming visit to Moscow by Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

The U.N. mediator on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, has been discussing the postponement here with Pakistani officials, delegates said.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme review
16:20 Children programmes
17:30 Local health programme
18:00 Teaching French
18:30 Local contacts programme
19:30 News programme
19:50 Programme review and varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic series
21:30 Tomorrow's programmes
21:35 Arabic play
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Champs Elysees
19:00 News in French
19:15 La valise des souvenirs
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 World Sports
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Paul Daniel Show
21:10 Remington Steele
22:00 News in English
22:28 Feature film: "The Rip Off"
Lue Van Cleef, Karen Black, Edward Albert

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW
Tel. 77111-19

7:00

Light Music
7:30 Newsdesk
7:30 Morning Show
8:00 News Summary
8:00 Morning Show
11:00 Pop Session
11:30 Hitville: The story of Motown
11:30 News Summary
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Pop Session
12:30 News Bulletin
14:00 Instrumentals
14:30 Just a Minute
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:00 Instrumentals
17:00 Old Favourites
17:30 The Musical in Review
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:00 Special Feature

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Flash
06:50 VOA Morning 07:00 24 Hours
07:00 News Summary 07:30 Pictorial
07:45 The World Today 08:00
08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Masterpiece in Miniature
08:40 The Farming World 09:00
09:00 World News 09:15 24 Hours
09:15 News Summary 09:45 Network
10:00 UK 10:00 World News 10:00
10:00 Reflections 10:15 Country Style 10:30
10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:00
11:00 British Press Review 11:15 The World
Today 11:30 Financial News: Look
Ahead 11:45 Body Talk 12:00 News
Summary: Look What They've Done
to my Song 12:30 World News 12:30
About Britain 12:15 New Ideas 12:25
A Letter from England 12:30 Assignment
14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Multitask
2 - Top Twenty 14:45 Sports
Round-up 15:00 World News 15:00
24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network

VOICE OF AMERICA

MTWTFSS 1260 SW 1265, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz

05:00 News 05:10 Newsline 05:30 VOA
Morning News 06:10 Newsline
06:30 VOA Morning 06:57 News Summary
07:00 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning
08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA
Morning 08:50 News 09:10 Newsline
09:30 VOA Morning 09:57 News Summary
10:00 Newsline 10:30 VOA
Morning 10:50 News 11:10 Newsline
11:30 Focus 11:30 Special English News &
Features 11:50 News 11:50 Newsline
12:30 Magazine Show 20:00 News
20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English
News & Features 21:00 News 21:10
Newsline 21:30 Now Music USA 22:00
News & Editorial 22:15 Music USA
Jazz 23:00 News 23:30 World Report.

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of photographs entitled "La Ville" at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 29).
* A painting exhibition by Saleh Abu Shabab at the Petra Bank Gallery - Wadi Saqra (until Feb. 3).

FEATURE FILM

* "Heaven Can Wait" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

VIDEO

* "L'Opera de Paris presente Ravel" at 4:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 643267
American Centre 24371
British Centre 641520
British Council 636147-8
French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Hayat Arts Centre 645129
Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. 646251
Univ. of Jordan Library 843535

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubdah, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.
Terzian Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubdah, meets in Italian language, most every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 622541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 678706.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah, Tel. 771534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 81120.
Rabbi David Congregation (International, Inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 606974.

PRAYER TIMES

05:05 Fajr
06:29 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:45 Asr
14:45 Maghreb
18:30 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (02) 33201-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS

(Terminal 1)
09:00 Agaba (RJ)
09:20 Cairo (RJ)
09:25 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
10:35 London (RJ)
10:35 New York, Vienna (RJ)
10:35 Athens (RJ)
10:45 Rome (RJ)
10:45 Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ)
03:20 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:40 Damascus, Athens (OA)
08:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:30 Beirut (ME)
11:30 Athens (SV)
13:30 Tripoli (LH)
13:30 Baghdad (IA)
14:00 Bahrain, Doha (GF)
15:00 Kuwait (KL)
15:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
20:00 Riyadh (SV)
20:00 Sana'a (LH)
20:20 Cairo (MS)
03:00 London, Baghdad (BA)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS

(Terminal 1)
06:45 Larnaca, Bucharest (RJ)
08:45 Rome (RJ)
10:00 Cairo (RJ)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:15 Brussels, Frankfurt (LH)
20:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45 Kuwait (RJ)
21:00 Jeddah (RJ)
21:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
21:15 Moscow, Cairo (RJ)
22:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:45 Larnaca, Bucharest (RJ)
08:45 Rome (RJ)
10:00 Cairo (RJ)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:15 Brussels, Frankfurt (LH)
20:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45 Kuwait (RJ)
21:00 Jeddah (RJ)
21:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
21:15 Moscow, Cairo (RJ)
22:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fair weather is expected again with southerly moderate winds. Agaba, fair weather and northerly moderate winds are expected with calm seas.

MIN. MAX. TEMP.

Agaba 21/8
Deserts 17/9
Jordan Valley 9/22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Agaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent, Agaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman police 891228
Amman Civil Defence 198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid 271253, 273311
Civil Defence Qamash 626730
Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306
Ambulance 193, 175111
Amman downtown fire brigade 198
First aid 630341
Blood bank 778030
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 2090-3
Police rescue 192, 81111, 637177
Police headquarters 639141
Traffic police 893991
Electric Power Co. 603814, 624881
Municipal water complaints 771236
Queen Alia Int. Airport (02) 333060

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamil Maraga 776149
Dr. Sa'ad Rashid 668334
Salim pharmacy 626730
Necrology pharmacy 723672
Khafat pharmacy 668663
Firas pharmacy 661912
Saleh pharmacy 668056

TAXIS

Al Walid taxi 641833
Al Khudr taxi 664888
Bassam taxi 611887
Abul taxi 621127
Hayam taxi 874111
Balasana taxi 845120
Bahrain taxi 77324
Mashhour taxi 897643

IRBID:

Dr. Mahmud Khalil (-)
Omni pharmacy (-)
Halabi pharmacy (-)

NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Atallah's family

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed bin Zaid to convey the King's condolences to the family of Anton Atallah, a former minister and member of Parliament who died in Amman on Tuesday at the age of 90.

Eight die in week's accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Eight persons were killed and 117 others were injured in 265 road accidents which occurred in Jordan in the past week, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department (PSD) on Wednesday. The bulletin said that 149 of these accidents took place in the Amman region.

Fact-finding mission ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A fact finding mission entrusted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to investigate the conditions of Arab workers under Israeli rule has wound up a four-day visit to Jordan and left Amman. During the visit, the mission members met with Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan who urged the ILO to take effective measures to help Arab workers and to improve their conditions. The minister told the mission that the conditions of Arab workers in the occupied territories have seriously deteriorated due to Israel's illegal and arbitrary measures.

Muasher confers with AOID director

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Hatem Abdul Rashid, director general of the Arab Organisation of Industrial Development (AOID) Wednesday conferred with Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher to review the organisation's general activities. A Ministry of Industry and Trade spokesman said that the two officials discussed cooperation between Jordan and the AOID in conducting an industrial survey in the Kingdom and a planned meeting in Amman by a special committee charged with following up on a programme for promoting the sale of products manufactured by joint Arab industrial businesses.

JMA to hold elections in April

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) will hold elections in April and physicians in Jordan will be able to take part by voting at centres to be set up in Amman, Irbid and Karak. A JMA spokesman said that nomination for the association's board will open on Feb. 25 and close on March 21. The JMA also announced that it has decided to form a new society for specialists in kidney diseases and said the society's constituent assembly will hold its first meeting in the coming week.

Robbers get prison terms with labour

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced six persons to a number of years in jail with hard labour for taking part in several crimes and robberies. Shaded Mohammad Khleifat, Khalil-Saleman Al Qatari and Youssef Ahmad Al-Hajlat have each been sentenced to four years while Isber Ahmad Hanan, Maher Abdul Rahim Abu Khayyat and Abdul Rahim Al Sikafi each received three year terms. The military governor on Wednesday endorsed the sentences.

Cabinet approves Saudi loan, memo with West Germany

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Wednesday approved a 70 million Saudi riyal loan to Jordan, which will finance the construction of buildings for the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of Science and Technology near Irbid. The loan is being provided by the Saudi Development Fund.

The Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali, also approved memoranda exchanged between the Jordanian and West German governments on a regional planning project. The project entails training Jordanian personnel in matters pertaining to regional planning and providing advice to Jordan to help the Kingdom draw up a regional planning strategy.

Also, Wednesday the Cabinet approved Jordan's participation in an international tourism fair due to open in Paris on Feb. 6. The Cabinet also formed a delegation led by Tourism Authority Director Nasri Atallah to lead a delegation to the fair.

Academy draws up Arabic symbols for scientific subjects

AMMAN (Petra) — Committees charged with proposing symbols in Arabic for mathematics, physics and chemistry met at the Jordan Academy of Arabic (JAA) on Wednesday to discuss and endorse appropriate symbols, corresponding to those in foreign languages, to be used for Arabic-speaking students.

The committees were formed by the academy on Tuesday at the start of a three-day meeting to discuss the subject of Arabising different subjects taught at schools and universities in the Arab World.

Addressing the opening session on Tuesday was Dr. Abdul Karim Khalifa, the academy's president, who said that Arabising scientific

subjects has become essential to enable Arab students to benefit from scientific progress. One of course cannot Arabise subjects without first finding appropriate symbols in Arabic to correspond to those in other languages, Dr. Khalifa pointed out. So far, he said, no unified system of symbols has been worked out in Arabic and for this reason the JAA entrusted a group of professors in mathematics, physics and chemistry to try to devise such a system which has been referred to the three committees.

Stars by Satellite — American celebrities talk to Radio Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Sunday, Feb. 1 at 11:00 a.m., in an interview with Paul Anka, Radio Jordan will inaugurate a new radio feature "Stars by Satellite." A joint venture between Radio Jordan and the American Cultural Centre, Stars by Satellite will present a series of interviews using a satellite link-up between Radio Jordan and well-known American entertainers and personalities, according to a press release issued by the American Centre in Amman.

Joint symposium begins in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (Petra) — A joint Jordanian-Indian symposium on science and technology in the Indian capital on Wednesday. The three-day meeting will discuss subjects related to scientific policies for developing the skills of technicians and other personnel involved in the field of technology. The symposium will also discuss issues related to the economics of construction, industrial equipment and computers.

Dajani tours six districts near Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani on Wednesday continued a two-day tour of six district governorates around Amman and met mayors and heads of local councils.

The minister's tour took him to Wadi Seer, Na'our, Jizeh, Sahab, Muwaqqar and Umm Al Basatin. He started his tour in Wadi Seer where district governor Issa Mahmoud and local officials outlined the needs of the 73,000 inhabitants in the district which groups eight village councils. The minister also made a review of the different projects for the district.

Later the minister visited Na'our and met members of the municipal council and representatives of the region. District Governor Aref Abu Karaki spoke at the meeting referring to the five-year plan which, he said, assigned JD 24 million for projects in the Na'our district.

At Jizeh, Sahab, Muwaqqar and Umm Al Basatin, Mr. Dajani met municipal councils and heard requests for civil defence centres, branches for the passport department and other public services.

Arab economists meet today to discuss plan for regional action

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab economic experts will assemble here today to review and discuss a medium-term plan to promote joint regional action and international cooperation.

The meeting, to be attended by representatives of 10 Arab states, will discuss a paper drafted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on the general framework of a medium-term plan (1990-1995) in the light of the economic, social and political problems facing the region.

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the meeting will also propose general frameworks and fields for the programme priorities to be presented at the commission's fourteenth session, to be held at the ministerial level in Baghdad early in April.

The two-day meeting, which brings together eminent personalities of the region, will be contributing to the global United Nations plan to be adopted by the General Assembly.

The first step in the preparation of a medium-term plan (each

of which has a term of six years, the current plan terminating in 1989) is the translation of the legislative authority of the U.N. General Assembly, the ESCWA and inter-governmental bodies into work plans.

The commission's ministerial session resolutions, and those of its technical committee and its inter-governmental meetings then provide the basic legislative support for the planning process and the drafting of the ESCWA programme budget. When required, the plan is subject to review every two years for adjustments.

Working paper

The commission's working paper entitled "General Framework and Programme Priorities for the Medium-Term Plan, 1990-1995," reviews the following economic and social issues facing the region: development issues and policies; food and agriculture; industrial development; science and technology; international trade and development; finance; public administration

and finance; natural resources; energy; social and human development; transport and communications; statistics; and transnational corporations.

Participants

Participants in the meeting include: Ibrahim Hilmi Abdul Rahman, Ahmad Khalifa, Ismail Sabri Abdullah, Hamed Ammar, Sa'ad Eddin Ibrahim, Mohammad Mahmoud El Imam of Egypt; Abubakar Assaqqaf of the Yemen Arab Republic; Ismail Al Delainy, Hatim Abid El Rasheed, Khair El Din Haseeb, Saad Khalil Ismail, Abdul Hassan Zalzala, Mahdi Al Obeidi of Iraq; Jawad Anani, Taher H. Kanaan of Jordan; Sa'eed Ghobash of the United Arab Emirates; Saleem El Hoss of Lebanon; Adnan Shihab Eddin, Abdallah Muhammad Ali of Kuwait; Faraj Bin Ghanim of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen; Mohammad Imady of Syria; Muhammad Khadr of Sudan and Youssef Al Sayegh of Palestine.

Rough times need tough tactics, economist says

By Saleem B. Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "The first half of the 1980's brought Jordan the roughest economic times since the 1967 war," according to a prominent Jordanian economist who also said that this warranted "a comprehensive programme to rectify loose budgeting and spending by both the private and public sectors."

Dr. Khalil Salem, a veteran economist, said the government has gone for import substitution rather than exports, let its exchange rate become uncompetitive, shunned foreign investment, held down farm prices, and preferred fancy projects to investment in revenue-gathering businesses.

Speaking on Tuesday evening at a lecture organised by the World Affairs Council, Dr. Salem proposed a host of sweeping austerity measures and reforms to "better manage" the Kingdom's resources. He said tough measures need to be adopted to deal with a situation he said caused by internal as well as external conditions.

Speaking to an audience that included several Jordanian officials, Dr. Salem, rapporteur of the finance committee of the Upper House of Parliament, criticised the government for "not adequately addressing the present problems," but added however that "chances for improvements are good."

He called for the establishment of a concrete set of measures to tackle the domestic causes of the Kingdom's debt problem: economic mismanagement, inflation, excessive government control of the economy and capital flight.

"The most important aspect of the recession is the decline of per capita income over four years," Dr. Salem said in reviewing the symptoms of the recession. "Agricultural production is poor, industry is suffering, tourism is weak and purchasing power low."

With the decline in international prices, he said, Jordanian industry has faced stiff competition and export problems. Dr. Salem said the government "has been attributing most economic problems to international conditions. This is no longer relevant." The former Cabinet member said that declining oil prices have hurt the national economy, "but, at the same time, the oil bill has been reduced to lower and satisfactory levels."

He said the government had allocated funds for investment in "non-lucrative projects," such as the South Cement Company, the Jordan Timber Processing Industries, the Abu Nusair housing project, the Yarmouk University expansion, the Jordan Fertilisers Company and the Plaza Hotel.

He said other losses were incurred because of high project costs as in the case of the Queen Alia International Airport and the Arab Potash Company.

Loans

Dr. Salem pointed out that Jordan obtained loans to the value of JD 1,000 million in 1986 compared to only JD 63 million in 1973 (when Dr. Salem was the minister of finance). He said only 15 per cent of these loans were Arab loans, but officials present said the correct figure was 25 per cent.

He said that 78.4 per cent of



Khalil Salem

government borrowing last year was used in capital expenditure instead of investment. "The budget law is systematically being taken."

Money "frets into Jordan," he said, "mostly wasted by the private sector in the purchase of luxury items, the building of palaces and villas, importing gold and jewellery (JD 65 million in 1985), buying cars (JD 60 million) and the import of food products (JD 190 million)."

He said the energy bill and luxury items constituted 54 per cent of imports. "Spending by the private sector on things like education and tourism abroad 'is incalculable,'" he said adding that capital flight — the legal or illegal export of foreign exchange was one of the main obstacles to the resolution of the debt problem.

He said that hard and difficult decisions need to be taken, but that "first we should admit there is a problem and cooperate to solve it on all levels. He said the public should be informed about any steps that may be taken."

"Unemployment, with all its political implications, has reared its ugly head," Dr. Salem said. The problem, he added, was an exacerbated by a surplus of graduates from local and foreign schools. He said that the number of foreign workers in Jordan was five times the number of unemployed Jordanians.

Reading from prepared notes, Dr. Salem listed a number of elements which he said had weakened investors' confidence in the Jordanian economy: a weak treasury suffering from massive imports and declining Arab aid; a decline of Central Bank foreign currency reserves; bad cheques to and from financial institutions and individuals; an average 60 per cent decline in the Amman Financial Market stock value over the last three years and market irregularities; frustration and uncertainties about the political situation and linking Arab economic relations with political developments.

He said that spending should be increased only in two areas — agriculture and support for the National Aid Fund. He said that the rigidity in the dinar's exchange rate did not always serve the Jordanian economy and that a "free market was more conducive to a healthy monetary policy."

"It is only a question of better management," he said. Finance Minister Hanna Odeh occasionally interrupted Dr. Salem to protest inaccurate figures quoted in the lecture. A brief discussion followed the lecture in which several businessmen participated.

Al Bashir takes \$1m linear accelerator out of storage to treat cancer patients

By Rama Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's first-ever linear accelerator will be operational in eight weeks from today, as more advanced form of radiotherapy treatment.

The U.S. Varian-made machine, purchased by the Health Ministry for \$1 million, provides patients with two forms of radiation therapy: X-ray and Electron Beam Therapy (EBT). Specialised doctors recommend the EBT method for its accuracy in giving radiotherapy treatment.

"It is more precise in giving radiation doses to malignant areas. It therefore protects other parts surrounding the affected area from being exposed to unnecessary radiation," explained Dr. Samir Al Kayyed, head of the government-run Al Bashir Hospital department for nuclear medicine and radiotherapy.

The 11 tonne colossal machine is installed at the hospital's newly added wing — the Jordan Cancer Centre. All infrastructural works needed for the equipment's installation have been completed at a cost of JD 750,000. Al Bashir Hospital has been offering radiotherapy treatment to cancer patients since 1958 using two cobalt-gamma-ray machines. The first machine was installed in 1965 and the second in 1976. There are plans to purchase a third cobalt gamma ray machine in three months at a cost of JD 100,000.

The new linear accelerator machine arrived on Jan. 21 of this year, almost three years after it was ready for delivery.

In storage

Last February, a heated debate broke out in the Lower House of Parliament over the delay in the machine's arrival and the high storage fees the Health Ministry was paying to an American storage agency. Audit Bureau figures said that the ministry was paying \$500 each month for storage of the equipment.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai told the deputies on Feb. 18 last year that the Health Ministry was instructed to sell the machine but failed to do so since it was

especially manufactured for use in Jordan. Officials have avoided any comment on this issue.

Al Bashir, which is presently limited to offering radiotherapy treatment for cancer patients will soon start providing chemotherapy. Dr. Al Kayyed told the Jordan Times on Tuesday.

At present, the government-run hospital located on top of one of Amman's seven mountains is treating cancer patients referred by different hospitals. Its cancer unit has 26 beds and Dr. Kayyed says that cancer patients who undergo surgery at the hospital can also stay at its other medical wards.

Need for rehabilitation centre

Dr. Kayyed, a radiotherapist and oncologist, conceded that the hospital which has "excellent radiotherapy machines," lacked a rehabilitation centre and a care unit for treatment of terminal cancer patients.



Out of its dust covers, the linear accelerator is now installed at Al Bashir Hospital and is expected to be operational in eight weeks (Al-Dustour photo)

"It is in this field where the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) could offer help," said Dr. Kayyed, apparently referring to the government's recent decision to scrap the union's projected JD 8 million Al Amal Centre for the treatment of cancer. The project was to be completed by 1990. But while preparations for its construction were underway, the government said that Jordan does not need a research centre for cancer. Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said last August that

"Jordan does not need a new cancer centre at present. Rather, the Kingdom requires improvements to the services and treatment facilities offered to cancer patients."

Amal Centre given the thumbs down

GUVS' response to Dr. Hamzeh's statements were that preparations to start Al Amal Centre were still continuing despite questions about the project's viability. The project later got a negative answer from the Higher Health Council over whether or not the scheme should go ahead.

Dr. Hamzeh, together with doctors at Al Bashir's newly-set up Jordan Cancer Centre firmly believe that treatment facilities offered at the hospital are "covering the needs of Jordanian cancer patients."

However, GUVS officials have

take chemotherapy at the Kingdom's only two hospitals currently offering this service. These hospitals are the University of Jordan Hospital and the King Hussein Medical Centre.

The Health Ministry pays around 90 per cent of the chemotherapy treatment's cost. Charitable societies, Dr. Kayyed said, could cover the remaining 10 per cent.

Number of cases

Over the past few years, Al Bashir's cancer treatment unit has helped 2,357 patients free of charge. Dr. Kayyed said his department treated 500 referred cancer cases during 1986 in contrast to 248 patients in 1980.

Out of the total referred cases for last year, 20 per cent suffered from breast cancer, 17.8 per cent from head and neck cancer, 16.9 per cent from cancer in the marrow system and 8.1 per cent from lymphomas cancer.

Jordan lacks the social part for treatment of cancer patients including rehabilitation and psychological therapy, said Dr. Kayyed.

Excluding figures obtained by Al Bashir hospital's department for statistics, there are no official number of cancer patients in Jordan.

However, the World Health Organisation's (WHO) rough estimates for cancer patients in Jordan during 1985 was put at 8,500 cases per one million.

Dr. Kayyed noted that the number of cancer patients in Jordan's northern parts was much greater than in the country's southern regions. He also revealed ministry plans to buy a new machine for the treatment of skin cancer. He could not give a definite date for the purchase.

Answering a question on the nuclear medicine offered at his department, Dr. Kayyed said it included isotope scanning, and a laboratory where immunoassay tests to detect tumours are carried out. Immunoassay is a branch of chemistry that deals with the identification of a substance (as a protein) through its capacity to act as an antigen. Immunoassays are also used in tumour detection tests.

Travelling pacifist brings flag of peace to Jordan

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — John Michael has a dream that peace will prevail in the world and that all people on earth will live in friendship and fraternity. Mr. Michael, who is currently in Amman hoping to have an audience with His Majesty King Hussein, has already visited several countries with the aim of spreading his beliefs and to present world leaders with a triangular flag of peace.

The 33-year-old American citizen told the Jordan Times on Wednesday that he hoped an audience with King Hussein would be arranged after the King returns from Kuwait. "I have heard so much about the King's sincere efforts for peace and his pioneering personality and I'm looking forward to meeting him in person," Mr. Michael said. "I will ask His Majesty to grant us the honour of being an honorary member of the advisory board of our corporation," he added.

Earth Trust is a non-profit corporation, which is sponsored by private citizens, has been supporting Mr. Michael's treks to various countries. Their ultimate goal, according to Mr. Michael, is to resolve territorial feuds, spare

the world from a potential nuclear holocaust and to create a harmonious and peaceful atmosphere for all people.

Mr. Michael arrived in Jordan last week from the Israeli occupied West Bank. In the occupied city of Jerusalem, Mr. Michael and his supporters distributed brochures calling for peace and hoisted the Earth Trust's flag of peace in front of a large crowd. The flag is a navy blue triangle with a sphere and a map of the earth which shows all the continents as a chain of connected islands in one ocean.

Swim across the Red Sea

Last May, Mr. Michael swam across the Red Sea from the port of Eilat to Agaba where he was picked up by the Jordanian coast guard patrols. After being questioned, Mr. Michael was told he was welcome to return to Jordan in the future but that the security forces would prefer he entered Jordan through the normal, legal channels.

The first flag of peace was presented to Mother Teresa of Calcutta and several ceremonial flag raising ceremonies have been staged in large cities in the United States.

Governor chairs meeting to discuss Irbid's rat problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — A meeting was held in Irbid on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin to discuss the problem of rats which are breeding in great numbers in the city's western district. Mr. Ali Al Amin said that proper measures are being taken to rid the area of the rats and that crates used in the local

market place and found in the district will be removed because they are breeding grounds for the rats.

The governor urged all public safety committees to coordinate their efforts to eliminate the rodents which, he said, have been caused so much damage to property.

MEMORIAL SERVICE
A memorial service will be held tomorrow afternoon Friday 30 January 1987 at 4:00 p.m., in the church of St. Mary's of Nazareth, Sweilieh, off Sixth Circle, Jabal Amman, in memory of the late deceased, who passed away in Lima, Peru:

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Way to stop carnage

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein expressed the feeling of millions of Muslims in his address to the Kuwaiti summit when he urged the leaders to work for an immediate ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war. The first order of business for the fifth Islamic summit, His Majesty said, must be the imposition of such a ceasefire to be followed by mediation and reconciliation between the two Muslim countries. Interestingly enough, such a call for an immediate ceasefire was echoed by the secretary general of the United Nations, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who suggested also that such a step may be followed by another procedure to determine the question of who started the war between Iran and Iraq. The fact that the Iranian leadership has responded favourably to the second part of the U.N. secretary general's address to the Islamic summit is a good omen on which the OIC can build and construct the other aspects of the infrastructure for peace in the Gulf. We believe that the blueprint for peace which His Majesty King Hussein has proposed to the Islamic countries in conjunction with the ideas put forward by the secretary general of the U.N. to offer the most practical solution for the war.

His Majesty said it all also for Muslims everywhere when he asked that we silence the guns in the Gulf in order to hear the calls of our first qibla. He cautioned that the calls of Al Aqsa for liberation are smothered by the thundering guns of Iran and Iraq, and that till those guns become silent, the Al Aqsa and the rest of Jerusalem, as well as the rest of the Arab lands, will stay captive with no hope for liberation. Likewise, the bloodletting between brothers in Lebanon must end and end quickly, King Hussein said. The bleeding in the Gulf and in Lebanon have developed into marks of infamy in the annals of Islam which have exhausted our energies and dispersed our resources, human and material. And, perhaps above all, they have cost us the respect of the international community, which now holds us in contempt on more than one front.

Now it is up to the Islamic summit to articulate the means to put into effect these calls for an immediate ceasefire. This should be followed by other procedures to redress the deeper cause of the conflict. And, the same is needed for Lebanon. The tricky part is to find the mechanism and machinery to translate the calls for a ceasefire into reality. We think that the most effective way to translate our wishes into realities is to have the fifth Islamic summit adopt a resolution which would call on or rather request the powers which supply Iran with weapons to halt such shipment forthwith. If the creation of a mechanism to establish responsibility for the beginning of the war is still relevant to Iran, let us have it as well. Such a procedure for mediation and reconciliation could be created within the framework of the OIC or even the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council meeting at the foreign ministers' level. The pressing and urgent issue is to start somewhere. Without starting anew, the carnage among Muslims can only be expected to go on.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King delivers the message

KING Hussein addressed the whole Islamic nation through the summit conference in Kuwait calling for an end to the Iran-Iraq conflict as a first step towards joint action for regaining the rights and the usurped holy shrines of the Islamic world. The King said that putting an end to the war was an inevitable step before Muslims can pool their resources and their vast potentials for the common cause. He said that the Aqsa Mosque is calling out for Muslims for rescue, but that the voice of Al Aqsa is being drowned by the sound of guns and destruction in the Gulf conflict and the civil war in Lebanon. Being affiliated to Islam is sufficient cause for having a purity of heart and good intention, and determination for ending the bloodshed among Muslim brothers, the King said. King Hussein urged the conference to take speedy measures for a ceasefire along the Iran-Iraq battlefield prior to helping both sides reach a lasting settlement that can safeguard the interests of the Arabs and Iranians alike. An end to the conflict in the Gulf, the King said, will lead to an end of the civil strife in Lebanon and other squabbles within the Islamic world. An end to the Gulf war is the most crucial step that should be taken in the right direction, leading to a total solidarity among Muslims and paving the way for a joint action against the common enemy that continues to occupy Islamic holy places and Arab land. The King has made it clear that the credibility of the Islamic nation is closely linked with such decisions, and that time was running out.

Al Dustour: King points to the ills

KING Hussein's address to the fifth Islamic summit in Kuwait was a historic document, containing a true diagnosis of the Arab and Islamic situation and pointing to the ailments and guiding the nation towards the remedy. In his speech which was firm, courageous and at the same time reflected agony and bitterness, King Hussein called on Muslims to overcome all present obstacles that continue to separate their countries, and to pool their efforts and join their ranks for the sake of achieving the goals of Islam. The King said that the on-going Gulf conflict was one of the main reasons behind the continued differences and squabbles that have dominated the Islamic world, and that this war remains the most serious challenge to the unity of Islam. The King said that this war should be stopped by all means so that the way can be open for resolving many other problems plaguing the Islamic nation. Ending the Gulf conflict, the King said, would manifest a genuine Islamic solidarity and would mean an elimination of elements of weakness in the Islamic nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: King urges end to war

KING Hussein's address to the fifth Islamic summit conference in Kuwait was a real call on Muslims to act now and end the tragedy befalling the Arabs and Muslims because of the Gulf conflict. Referring to the daily sufferings of the Arab and Muslim peoples of Iraq and Iran, the King said that the leaders of the Islamic nation should take all possible steps for halting the conflict and the bleeding. He said that such a step was necessary at the moment to avert a total collapse and loss for the Islamic nation. In his address the monarch portrayed before the Muslim leaders a gloomy image of Islamic affairs with differences tearing Islamic countries apart and elements of weakness clearly prevailing. He said the Islamic nation is passing through a very crucial stage which does not allow room for hesitation or further procrastination as to joint action and to solidarity in the face of the threats of destruction and the challenges posed by the common enemies of Islam. In his address the King also presented a comprehensive review of the situation in Lebanon which calls out for help from the Islamic conference. His address did not only point to the ailments but offered a remedy for the ills of the nation.

Don't we have rights too?

By Dr. Abdel Qader Yassine

The writer is professor of political science at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and head of the Middle East section at the university's International Institute of Conflict Studies. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

THE Oxford English Dictionary defines "legitimate" as "lawful, proper, regular, conforming to standard type, logically admissible." The word "right" it defines as: "just, morally good, required by equity or duty, proper."

As far as the Zionists are concerned "legitimate rights" when applied to the Palestinians become dirty words. Everybody and any body can have "legitimate rights," but not the Palestinians. And the question that a Palestinian, like myself, would ask is: Why on earth should my people be treated differently from any other people, differently from other human beings?

The legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are very simple indeed. They are steeped in history and in the reality of the present day. They are derived from fundamental principles enshrined in the laws of God and of man.

The Palestinians are the direct descendants of a people who have inhabited Palestine since time immemorial. Their ancestors lived in the country when it was shared by a mixture of races, some of whom were Jews. A larger number of those Jews left the country 2,000 years ago to settle in neighbouring countries in Asia and Europe. Fourteen hundred years ago the Arabs came to Palestine to live with those who were there. Four hundred years later the Crusaders came to the country, and some of them settled. But fifty years ago the predominant racial composition of Palestine was Arab. Arabs comprised about nine-tenths of the population when a policy proclaimed by Britain, which had conquered the country in the First World War, sought to introduce, against the wishes of the Arab majority, Jewish settlers from various parts of the world.

The General Assembly of the United Nations decided on Nov. 29, 1947 to partition Palestine between the Arabs and the Jews. The decision was a harsh one for the Palestinian Arabs, since it gave the greater part of the country (and the most fertile) to the Jews who then numbered no more than a third of the total population. The Arabs rejected this decision, and fought against it. In consequence, the Jews took even more land than was allotted to them, and turned large numbers of the Palestinian Arabs into homeless refugees sheltering in neighbouring Arab countries. Since 1967 the Zionist state has occupied, by force of arms, the remainder of Palestine. There is now not a single Palestinian who lives free and independent in his own homeland. They are all either under Israeli rule, in refugee camps in neighbouring Arab countries, or in exile. They are the only people in regard to whom the clock of modern history has been turned back. Everybody goes forward in freedom, independence and self-determination. Everybody — except the Palestinians.

The Palestinians have asked the world in the past to allow them to enjoy these elementary rights which peoples throughout the world have enjoyed or are deemed entitled to enjoy, and there is ample, substantial basis for these claims. In the United Nations Charter, for example, the preamble proclaims, "We the peoples of the United Nations determined... to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small..." Since no exception is made of the Palestinians, they are asking that this most basic of the basic tenets of the United Nations be applied to them. The United Nations itself in 1947 said there should be a Palestinian state alongside that of the Jews, and although by any standards the United Nations (with its small and unrepresentative membership at the time) was less than generous to the Palestinians

in that decision, the Palestinians have said that they will now accept the half loaf instead of their rightful full one. What basis is there for denying them that?

Likewise, several solemn declarations, protocols, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations and of respectable international organisations have repeatedly proclaimed principles which — although they did not directly refer to the Palestinians — have accorded recognition and validity to Palestinian claims (e.g. the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonised Peoples of 1960, and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1963). In 1974 a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations (Resolution No. 3236) upheld the "inalienable right" of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The European Economic Community (EEC) in a statement in June 1977 said that the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians must be respected, and that they must be allowed to give effective expression to their national identity; also that Israel must end the occupation of Palestinian territory which it has maintained since 1967.

By any humanitarian or honourable standards this constitutes massive incontrovertible support for the rights of the Palestinians. But the Palestinians remain a people without a home and without the basic essentials of a civilised existence. And the reason for this is the interminable procrastination and prevarication, as well as the overt and covert pressure and blackmail, which the Israelis and the Zionists have successfully applied against the Big Powers to prevent any positive steps being taken towards the realisation of the rightful aspirations of the Palestinian people.

What are the pretexts or excuses which the Zionists have used to veto the fulfilment of the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinians, and how have they managed to succeed in this?

The paucity of Israeli and Zionist arguments in favour of their continued disregard of Palestinian rights is varied, almost ingenious. They claim that they are entitled to keep the West Bank (the eastern part of Palestine) because it does not belong to the Arabs. They claim that the Jordanian "annexation" of that part of Palestine was illegal, and that the Jordanians do not have rightful sovereignty over that territory. But even if the argument about "annexation" is accepted, and the Jordanians are considered in strict law not to have sovereignty over the West Bank, this does not mean that land belongs to no one (*terra nullius*) or, more important, that it belongs to the Israelis. The West Bank may not be Jordan's legal domain, but it belongs in law to its own people, to the men, women and children who inhabit it and have inhabited it peacefully and without interruption for many centuries. The West Bank is not a vacuum in law or an empty desert open for acquisition by anybody who cares to grab it by military force. The days of the old colonialism are over, and in the modern law of nations territory and people are not goods and chattels to be taken and disposed of by those who have the power to do so.

The Israelis say they will stay in the West Bank to settle and administer the country, but that they would allow the Palestinians to run some of their own affairs. Important matters like foreign affairs, defence, etc., would continue to be controlled by the Israelis, but the Palestinians can have "self-government" in regard to strictly domestic affairs. In other words, the Palestinians can eat and drink — but important matters about their life and their future will be handled for them by the Israelis. Why, one may ask? The answer can only be that the Palestinians are not fit to govern themselves, and the Israelis are a superior species of human beings. Many decent people would dispute this proposition: The standard

of education of the Palestinian people is among the highest in the world, and they do not need the tutelage and patronage of the Israelis.

The Israelis argue that they will not accept the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a representative of the Palestinian people in any discussions or negotiations on the future of the West Bank. But the PLO is recognised by the entire Arab Nation (including the Palestinians) and by many states and organisations in the world as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The claim by the Israelis that the PLO is a "terrorist" organisation is not accepted by the world community. The liberation struggle of the Palestinians has in fact been less violent than that of many peoples who ultimately attained recognition and respectability. Certainly the PLO has not been guilty of anything like the atrocities and horrors which the Zionists, especially the organisation led by the present Israeli prime minister, have committed.

A significant fact is that the Palestinians have had ample opportunity to indicate their views about the PLO, and there is abundant evidence to show that they support it. If the United Nations has any serious doubt about the status of the PLO as a representative of the Palestinians it should proceed to carry out a referendum. Meanwhile, for the world, including Israel, the PLO is the Palestinians. The Israeli argument is like that of a party in a court of law saying to the judge that the other party should not be represented by a particular lawyer, and insisting that he (the first party) should choose a lawyer for the other side. It would be ridiculous and outrageous to make such an argument in a court of law — and it is no less ridiculous for the Israelis to make it now as regards the Palestinians and the PLO.

One of the arguments put forward by the Israelis is that a Palestinian state would not be economically viable. The fact is, however, that such a state will be more viable than a lot of other fully-fledged states and members of the United Nations. Its economy basically would be more adequate than that of Israel which depends to unhealthy proportions on the USA, to the tune of \$2.5 billion annually. Would the Zionists follow their own logic and on this basis agree to surrender their own independence to someone else, and a poorer one at that? Ridiculous, yes. But why are the Palestinians being asked by the Israelis to do just that?

Yet another objection which the Israeli government has to the establishment of a Palestinian state is that this state would be a threat to the security of Israel. The United Nations and the big powers are more than capable of maintaining the safety and security of Israel. What Israel cannot do, however, is to reject all guarantees, from whatever source, and demand instead that it physically occupy neighbouring territory so that it can secure, by its own direct presence, that its borders are not violated. What would the map of the world look like if every state with fears or hallucinations about any possible threats from a neighbour were to occupy its territory and reduce it to a colony?

Israel now has a chance to regularise and settle the situation in the Middle East, and to establish peace and stability. This is a matter in which the big (and the small powers) have direct and legitimate interest. The Palestinians would trust the judgement of the big powers and the international community in this.

Honesty and courage are precisely what are needed to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Palestinians hope that there would be enough of these qualities in evidence at the proposed international peace conference in which the question of Palestine will be discussed.

Only this will rectify the injustice and alleviate the misery suffered by the Palestinians in the past thirty-eight years, and restore their faith in human kind.

Arabic dailies

(Continued from page 1)

"The government was convinced with our argument advocating a need for a price increase," one publisher said.

A limited survey conducted by the Jordan Times, showed that a number of readers, many of those who now buy the three papers, may be satisfied in buying only two or even one newspaper. This means that the newspaper which is seen as third in line would be hurt the most.

People in the publishing business recently proposed transforming the four-year-old Sawt Al Shaab into an evening paper to help it become more competitive with the well established Al Ra'i and Ad Dustour.

They said the price increase was necessary to enable newspapers maintain and further improve their services to readers and safeguard the interests and benefits of those working in the business.

Asked about his expectations on the public's reaction to an increase in newspaper prices, one publisher said: "This is our main concern, but we hope they will understand."

The Jordan Times is to maintain its current price of 100 fils.

Leaders do not reach consensus

(Continued from page 1)

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. After the meeting well informed sources said that Mr. Abdul Meguid informed the PLO that "nothing has come out from the meeting between Assad and Mubarak."

Meanwhile participants at the conference were exerting last minute and intensive efforts to come out with practical steps that will contribute to an end to the Gulf war and the camps war between the Palestinians and the Shi'ite Amal militiamen in Lebanon.

The participants have so far failed in forming a delegation that

will be designated to visit Tehran and Baghdad in "final attempt" to mediate a peaceful and a negotiated settlement between the two countries.

A number of Arab officials here expressed the view that the conference has failed and reached a dead end regarding efforts to end the war. "That was it, we could not do anything to bring both parties close together," a senior Arab official said.

But other officials were still optimistic that Tehran would agree to receive the delegation. Contacts with Tehran were going on until late hours on Wednesday to urge the Iranian leaders to agree to receive the delegation.

U.K. ready to talk to radicals

(Continued from page 1)

more news, "I just wish I had," Mrs. Thatcher said.

Meanwhile a pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim leader declared support for the kidnapping of foreigners.

"I support acts of kidnapping against spies and (intelligence) agents," said Hussein Moussawi, leader of the pro-Iranian Islamic Amal militia.

Moussawi's remarks were broadcast by the Voice of the

Oppressed radio, which is controlled by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or Party of God. The station is based in the Syrian-occupied Bekaa Valley and the broadcast was monitored by local reporters in the area.

In Beirut newspaper said Wednesday guarantees have been given about the safety of Mr. Waite.

Guarantees about his safety were given to a Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim doctor and former

cabinet minister who has been acting as an intermediary between Mr. Waite and the kidnappers of U.S. hostages, the independent An Nahar newspaper said.

It quoted a source close to the unnamed doctor as saying the kidnappers had no intention of holding Mr. Waite. His case was being worked on slowly "to avert any imprudent action by the kidnappers," it said.

King Fahd renews plea to end Iran-Iraq war

(Continued from page 1)

KUWAIT (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia appealed to Iran in an interview published Wednesday to stop its suicidal war with neighbouring Iraq.

"The war has wounded the heart of the Islamic community... We do not see a single reason for its start or continuation," he told the Kuwaiti daily Al Rai Al Aam. "Islamic countries and the United Nations have done all they could to stop the suicidal war," he added.

The Saudi monarch said Iraq had responded to these efforts. "But we still look forward to brother Iran to respond to the call of humanity for stopping the bloodshed."

King Fahd, one of the principal backers of Iraq, added: "We renew our sincere plea to the Iranian leadership to seize the opportunity of the Islamic gathering here to reconsider their position for an understanding that guarantees peace to both the Muslim peoples."

Assad, Gemayel pledge renewed efforts for peace

(Continued from page 1)

KUWAIT (R) — The leaders of Lebanon and Syria pledged Wednesday to work together in renewed efforts to end the 11-year-old Lebanese civil war.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told reporters after a 55-minute meeting with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, their first in a year: "We will multiply our efforts to overcome the Lebanese-Syrian difficulties."

Mr. Gemayel, in a speech to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit here, praised Mr. Assad for "extending a helping hand."

"Both of us have increased our efforts recently to pull Lebanon out of its troubles," he said.

The two leaders have been at odds since Mr. Gemayel rejected a Syrian-brokered peace pact between Lebanese Falangists and the opposition militias a year ago.

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Jessica Lange gives students rare off-screen performance

By John Fine
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning actress Jessica Lange recently shook off her role as one of Hollywood's most private stars to take on 1,500 potential interviewers.

For an hour this month she stood on stage in a ballroom jammed with students at the University of California, Los Angeles, answering questions that touched on her sensuality, technique, philosophy, future plans as an actress and producer, and live-in relationship with playwright/actor Sam Shepard and her two daughters.

Lange, 37, earned her fourth consecutive Academy Award nomination for the 1985 film "Sweet Dreams," in which she portrayed the late country singer Patsy Cline. She won her Oscar in 1982 as best supporting actress in "Tootsie."

Her career got off to a spitting start — after years of training as a mime in Paris and studying acting in New York — with a somewhat embarrassing professional debut that had her writhing and screaming in the paw of "King Kong."

"It's not my favourite role,"

she said of "Kong," during the session with students. But she added: "Whatever you've done in the past, sooner or later you kind of take responsibility for it. So it's not as though I'm denying that it was something that I did."

She did not work for more than two years after that film, concentrating instead on the technical aspects of acting. She credits that technique with her subsequent success, but discovered a new dimension to her work through "Sweet Dreams."

"It was like a breakthrough kind of way of working for me, because up until that time I had always believed that artists had to be almost painfully private, you know, intensely private about their work, and introspective," she said.

"I had always worked on a closed set. I never let anyone observe. During any kind of real emotional scene I'd have the set cleared. I couldn't work if there was anybody in my eye line."

To make the lip-synchronising to Cline's records perfect, she rehearsed to tapes constantly and did as many as 12 to 15 takes, feeling as if she were opening up and blossoming into a quite different person.

Currently co-starring with Sissy



Jessica Lange as the singer Patsy Cline

Spacek and Diane Keaton in "Crimes of the Heart," Lange

said her role as a failed nightclub

singer benefited from her new

outlook.

"It was so liberating for me to

actually perform, to kind of jump that hurdle in my work, that I think it's changed the way I perceive acting now."

Lange, who grew up in rural Minnesota and had a failed marriage to a poet after graduating from college, said her daughters — five-year-old Alexandra, by dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov, and one-year-old Hannah, by Shepard — had also helped her to become a better actress.

"I think something happens when you have a child, something opens in your heart that had never quite been touched before. And I think, especially for an actor, anytime you can open up and become totally vulnerable and work out of a real state of love, that's when you're doing your best work," she said.

In "Crimes of the Heart" — a quirky comedy directed by Australian Bruce Beresford — Lange and Shepard, a Pulitzer prize-winning playwright, worked together for the third time.

They co-starred in "Country," about a midwestern family trying to hold onto a farm foreclosed by a bank, for which Lange received another Oscar nomination. Shepard had a small role in "Frances," based on troubled life of actress Frances Farmer, for

which Lange also was nominated.

Among leading men, however, Lange reserved the highest praise for Jack Nicholson, her co-star in the remake of "The Postman Always Rings Twice." That film marked the real start of her career, she said, following a striking but decorative role as the angel of death in Bob Fosse's "All That Jazz."

"He's a very interesting actor to work with in that he's absolutely supportive and totally generous with his time and his energy," Lange said. "He has a great energy and it kind of fills the space around him. It's like being in the sunlight."

Lange, who last summer signed a three-year agreement with Universal Pictures for development of films by her production company, hopes someday to make a film of Jayne Ann Phillips' family novel "Machine Dreams."

She said she was also considering a project about Dian Fossey, an American naturalist who spent the last 18 years of her life studying the rare mountain gorilla in the central African nation of Rwanda.

Fossey, 53, was hacked to death in her cabin at her remote research centre in December 1985.

Randa Habib's Corner

A thing of beauty is a gift forever

AS a child I was told that when the sun sets, if one kept on looking at the disappearing ball of the sun until it sank away, one could make a wish, and his or her wish might just come true.

Last week, I stopped my car on a hill top where I could have a really good view of the sunset, and then I wished — very, very hard. I wished that the next morning, when I went to my office, I would find everything as it was a few months ago.

My office is at Jabal Amman's Second Circle. You remember that circle with colourful flowers, and comfortable benches. But, sadly, instead of colours these days one sees a stone wheel and an ugly kind of pyramid meant to be used as a water fall. Trees and flowers were, of course, chopped down to provide space for this monument — a gift from the Jordan Chamber of Industry. The wheel I was told represents industrial development in Jordan. Someone whispered to me that the flowers and trees, chopped away, represent agricultural development. One would suggest anyhow that such a wheel's proper place would have been in Zarqa or in the industrial city of Sahab.

But, a gift, I suppose should be displayed for everyone to see and enjoy. That is why Amman was chosen, and the Second Circle thus honoured.

The cost of this "beautification" process, I learnt, was impressive. The municipality, however, defends itself by saying that it did not pay a penny, as it was the Chamber of Industry which footed the bill. However, many people argue that such money could have been used for a more useful project, one from which the people could have benefited.

Anyhow, I know it is too late now and my wishes won't come true. Next time when watching the sun, I know for what to wish. I'll wish that whenever a project like this is planned, people would be consulted over it. After all, it is their city and their neighbourhood that will bear the mark, beautiful or not.

New York exhibit focuses on Van Gogh's final months

By Mary Powers
Reuter

NEW YORK — Paintings reflecting the last turbulent months in the life of Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh, who shot himself in 1890 at the age of 37, are drawing crowds to an exhibit at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

A sequel to the 1984 exhibit "Van Gogh in Arles" at the MET, the show offers a loose chronology of the painter's works from his voluntary commitment to an insane asylum in St. Remy in southern France in May 1889 until his suicide in the northern town of Auvers on July 27, 1890.

Van Gogh's death, said his brother Theo, brought him "the rest he could not find on earth." His emotional turmoil during his last 15 months has been studied extensively and popularised in novels, on screen, even in song.

Yet the exhibit, which includes "The Starry Night," and "Cypruses," attempts to dispel what guest curator Ronald Pickvance describes as "the myth of the mad genius," presenting Van Gogh's final months as a highly focused and prolific period on his brief artistic career.

"Whatever the illness may have been," Pickvance writes in the catalogue, "it did not directly affect his work."

"His paintings are neither graphs of his so-called madness nor primary indicators of his mental state. Between his breakdowns in the asylum he had long periods of absolute lucidity when he was completely master of himself and his art."

Pickvance supports his argument with scrutiny of the period as chronicled in van Gogh's letters to his beloved brother Theo and to artist friends in which he included detailed descriptions of his works, including his use of colour.

The curator said he selected the 89 works in "Van Gogh in St. Remy and Auvers" in an attempt to reflect Van Gogh's own categorisations.

The emphasis, he said, is on seeing the artist's work as an entity made up of defined groups. On display are several of a series of about a dozen paintings of olive trees, in which he endeavoured to catch what he described in a letter as the "contrasting effect in the foliage, changing with the hues of the sky."

There are also varied

perspectives on cypresses, the asylum garden and views of fields and mountains near the asylum.

During the last 70 days of his life, at Auvers, the artist explored a new format, the double square. All but two of the 13 paintings done in that manner are included in the show.

One of them, "Crows over the Wheat Field," has been the subject of much interpretation because of the ominous sky and the crows which seem to be flying towards the artist-spectator, creating what some say is a sense of trapped enclosure.

But Pickvance differs with those critics and art historians who say the work was a sign of van Gogh's torment.

"It has been interpreted as Christian iconography from crucifixion to the last judgment as an image of cosmic chaos projected through van Gogh's inner torment as a psychic graph of his imminent suicide," Pickvance writes.

"Many of these interpretations are linked to the assumption that this was van Gogh's last painting. But this has not been established." Mark Roskill, an art historian at the University of Massachusetts, said the exaggerated features in some of van Gogh's portraits of

the period and other aberrations were consciously introduced by the artist and were not signs of his mental instability as some critics have put forward.

He too has long maintained that van Gogh was stable for much of the 15 months, but he noted that some paintings with more disorderly brushwork, cited by some critics as a sign of the artist's instability, were not included in this show.

What is demonstrated clearly through the exhibit and van Gogh's letters is how the artist boldly used at times violent but harmonious colour and impetuous brushwork to convey emotions about his surroundings and people in his life.

Van Gogh once wrote to Theo: "Really we can only speak through our paintings. In my own paintings I am risking my life and half my reason has been lost to it."

Most critics have praised the exhibit, which will be on view until March 22, with adjectives like "powerful," "impressive," and "triumphant."

Many of the paintings on display, borrowed from museums around the world, are enhanced by their presentation as part of the whole, art historians and critics say.



'Sunflowers,' one of Van Gogh's most famous paintings in modern art, will be put on sale March 30, the famous auction house Christie's announced recently

Japanese team enters high-tech quest for pyramid's secrets

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Japan entered an undeclared race against France on Jan. 25 to discover secrets that the great pyramid of Cheops has kept hidden for 4,600 years.

Dr. Ahmed Kadry, chairman of the Egyptian antiquities organisation, announced the start of the effort by a team from Tokyo's Waseda University to find passages and holes deep inside Cheops pyramid.

A French-Egyptian effort that found evidence of previously undetected chambers last year is expected to return to the pyramid this week for more tests. Cheops, which covers more than 13 acres, is thought to contain 2.3 million limestone blocks weighing 2.5 tonnes each.

Of particular interest is a narrow corridor leading to the queen's chamber, where last September the French team bore three small holes into a limestone block in an abortive attempt to locate a hidden room.

The Japanese and French teams are using different high-technology equipment in their projects.

Like the French, the Japanese team will survey in addition to the pyramid the area around the Sphinx, at the foot of Giza plateau.

The three pyramids atop the plateau and the Sphinx remain among the world's best-known puzzles, with very little scientific knowledge and few clues from the past to explain them.

"Scientific research on Giza plateau is open to the whole world with application of high technology by friendly centres of higher learning," antiquities chairman Kadry, who heads all archaeological efforts in Egypt, told a news conference. "After the French effort we found many countries became interested in joining the effort to find unknowns in Cheops."

"What we are doing is gathering more complete data (and) information concerning cavities already attested by the French. ... We are after the detection of any

secrets in the pyramid's interior construction and knowledge on religious, archaeological and architectural aspects."

"The pyramids in general and the great pyramid of Cheops in particular remain enigmas."

Geophysics professor Dr. Shoji Tonouchi, the Japanese group's spokesman, said his countrymen have done archaeological work in Egypt for 20 years, surveying — among other things — mummies.

"We feel by using the same technology on Cheops that we used to X-ray the internal organs of mummies, we can locate any passages or cavities hidden from view," he said.

"We have been using the same instruments we will use here for three years in Japan to detect underground monuments, and we have (discovered) previously un-found tombs."

Japanese technicians demonstrated at the news conference the Kodan electromagnetic instrument. About the size of a microwave oven, it works on the same principle that allows doctors to

monitor a fetus inside the womb.

Tonouchi said that in some archaeological applications the instrument is so accurate it can detect cavities but also can find objects hidden inside the cavities.

"If we find chambers, then we can at the same time determine if there are any statues or objects in the chambers," he said. The French method was unable to determine whether objects were inside the cavities detected.

Tonouchi and another team leader, archaeology professor Sakuji Yoshimura, said they don't expect to be able to begin readings inside the pyramid for several days, but Tonouchi said the entire project will be finished within 10 days.

Unlike the French equipment, which gives readings that require computer analysis, the Japanese gear yields information on the spot. Nevertheless, Tonouchi said the findings will be analysed further in Japan.

Preliminary results will be

given both to Egyptian antiquities authorities and to the French team, headed by Jacques Mondicon of the French Electricity Board, which co-sponsored the earlier effort with the French Foreign Ministry.

Antiquities head Kadry said the French team will take about

200 new readings with their instruments before deciding how best to proceed.

"Our methods are quick, exact, sure," Tonouchi said. "We're not treasure hunters. We're surveying Cheops for archaeological and architectural purposes."

Liza Minnelli making first film in five years

By Philip Pallella
Reuter

ROME — Liza Minnelli walked into her wood-paneled trailer dressing room outside the villa where she is making her first film in five years and threw off a thick fur coat to reveal a blue Chicago Bears football sweatshirt.

"Ahhh, it's cold out there," she said, hugging herself. She lit a cigarette and dispatched aides — she calls them all "sweethearts" — to fetch coffee and boots to warm her up.

After tackling a drug and alcohol problem two years ago and a period of intensive activity on the stage and television, Minnelli, 40, is returning to the big screen. And she wants people to know that she is again fully in charge of her personal and professional life.

In the film "Rent a Cop," which has been shooting in Chicago and in a villa in the Roman countryside, she plays a Chicago prostitute who seeks the protection of a former policeman — played by Burt Reynolds — when

she realises someone wants to kill her.

In an interview with Reuters, Minnelli, as effervescent off the set as she is on, spoke about her past problems, her parents — Judy Garland and Vincente Minnelli — and her plans for the future.

In the 25 years since she made her professional debut, Minnelli has excelled as a singer, dancer and actress, winning an Oscar for her performance in the film "Cabaret" in 1972 and a Tony Award for the Broadway musical "The Act" in 1978.

But in 1984 she entered the Betty Ford Centre in California for treatment for alcohol problems and dependency on tranquilizers. The episode evoked comparisons with her mother, who was plagued by addiction to pills for much of her life.

"Everybody I know, including myself, gets into trouble ... when you dole out too much credit to public opinion, when your sense of self gets blurry, when you feel that what people think is more important than how you feel,"

she said.

"That's when it's dangerous and that's an easy thing to happen — to me, to a housewife. That's when you worry about getting enough sleep so you take a sleeping pill, when other people think you're overweight so you take a diet pill ... and then you find yourself in a rehab (rehabilitation centre)."

Minnelli took a long drag on her cigarette and continued, "One of the hardest things for me to learn was to say oo. It was very difficult because I wanted everybody to think I was perfect."

Now confident again that she can handle the whirlwind of activity that has characterized her career, she spoke enthusiastically about her plans for the future.

"Now I feel so good and ready to move into all kinds of different things," she said. A child of showbusiness, she oozed with pride when she spoke of a tribute she will be making about her late father, director Vincente Minnelli, for American television called "Minnelli on Minnelli."

"It's a real special look at this career, which was vast. It's a very personal viewpoint of what he did," she said, adding that she felt more comfortable doing a show about her father than about her mother because she had spent more time with him as a child.

"My father always made me very proud of the fact that I was a woman. I never wanted to be anything but a woman. He gave me a certain pride in my status and taught me there is nothing a woman can't do."

"I think that's one of the greatest gifts he gave me," Minnelli said. "He gave me my dreams."

She is also planning a three-week, one-woman show at New York's Carnegie Hall which she said will be the longest one-person performance ever held there.

She is also keeping an ear open for another musical film role to match "Cabaret" and "New York, New York" — both perfect showcases for her array of talents.

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Decision time for English soccer

LONDON (AP) — English professional soccer clubs vote on Thursday whether to halt the spread of artificial playing surfaces, an increasingly contentious issue that has brought heated debate from players and managers alike.

While other sports have welcomed the plastic revolution, soccer administrators are agonising over a decision that critics say could change the game's course in a country known as the cradle of soccer.

Opponents of artificial surfaces, including England's 1966 World Cup hero Bobby Charlton, say Thursday's vote by the 92 English League clubs could have a significant bearing on this country's standing in world soccer. But supporters of plastic pitches say the switch over from natural grass is inevitable and that soccer is falling behind the times.

Charlton, who became a manager when his playing days were over and now works as a soccer analyst, claims that the governing bodies of the sport in Europe and the world, UEFA and FIFA, are against artificial surfaces.

Widespread acceptance of plastic pitches by the country's clubs, Charlton argues, could end England's chances of staging another World Cup finals tournament or the European Championship.

"The rest of the world still looks our way for a lead in football (soccer)," Charlton was quoted as saying in the tabloid Daily Express.

"But plastic pitches would make us outcasts, for there is no suggestion that FIFA or UEFA would ever sanction artificial surfaces."

Supporters of artificial surfaces in England say they are the only answer to the fickle British weather, which annually causes a backlog of postponed games.

They also claim that hard-up soccer clubs straining to stay in business could generate important income by allowing their fields to be used for a variety of other sports and entertainments, without damaging the playing area.

Among the sports that are moving away from natural grass in Britain are field hockey and tennis.

The number of artificial field hockey surfaces has risen to over 100 and the performances of domestic teams has improved significantly as a result of playing on plastic.

A proposed change of surface for the Australian Open tennis championships would leave Wimbledon as the only Grand Slam event still played on grass. But even in Britain, the number of artificial tennis courts has grown rapidly.

Despite pressure in Britain for more artificial soccer fields, an Associated Press survey showed that few other European soccer powers were in a hurry to install plastic pitches.

Although several Swedish Second and Third Division teams use artificial turf, the rest of Europe remains faithful to grass.

Many countries close down their soccer programmes in mid-Winter to avoid the worst weather, while England's congested season ploughs on through the mud and snow.

The four English clubs with artificial surfaces are Queens Park Rangers and Luton Town of the First Division, Oldham Athletic of the Second and Preston North End of the Fourth Division.

Thursday's proposal by First Division West Ham United is to ban any more similar artificial surfaces for at least three years. If it fails, 10 more clubs are waiting

for final approval to switch over from grass, said Andy Williamson, spokesman for the Football League.

"Those ten already have outline planning permission to put down an artificial surface," Williamson told the Associated Press.

With so many clubs waiting for permission to install artificial turf, Charlton wants action now.

Apart from the prospect of England being ostracised by the rest of the world, he believes that plastic pitches severely restrict the skill factor.

"The ball flies around so quickly and the lottery element takes over. The long boot onfield becomes a logical tactical ploy," he said.

Visiting teams, Charlton maintains, will have no alternative than to defend and hope for a tie.

Champion Liverpool visited Luton for a league match this season and lost 4-1 after adopting an attacking play on the unfamiliar surface. When the Merseyside team returned for a cup game, it concentrated on safety-first tactics and came away with a 0-0 tie.

While supporters of artificial turf point to its consistency of grip underfoot, critics counter with a growing list of injuries.

Goalkeepers and defenders report burn marks caused by diving and tackling, while the extra grip when turning leads to nagging knee and ankle injuries.

The number of injuries detract from the popularity of artificial turf in the U.S. gridiron game.

The NFL has 16 artificial surfaces against 11 natural grass fields. But the players' union is anti-plastic because of the high injury potential and hopes to deal with the problem in its next negotiations with the league starting next month.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

West Ham, Tottenham face replay

LONDON (R) — Ace marksmen Clive Allen of Tottenham and Tony Cottee of West Ham boosted their scoring tally in Tuesday's drawn English League Cup quarter-final between the London neighbours. Allen's 29th goal of the season gave Tottenham a 38th minute lead but Cottee was on target for the 23rd time minutes into the second half and forced a replay at Tottenham on Monday. The winners face Arsenal over two legs in the semifinals. Southampton needed a 63rd minute penalty by Colin Clarke to sink Second Division Shrewsbury and set up a last-four date with Liverpool.

Australia crushes West Indies

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Australia beat the West Indies by 36 runs in the World Series Cup game at the Sydney Cricket Ground Wednesday. Chasing a target of 195 off 50 overs, the West Indies was dismissed for 158 with 3.5 overs to spare. Viv Richards played a virtual lone hand in the West Indies innings, making 70 from 96 balls with nine boundaries. But when the Windies captain was out with the total at six for 114 in the 38th over, Australia O'Donnell won the man of the match award for his outstanding bowling performance of four for 19 from 10 overs.

Egypt's Zamalek stays on top

CAIRO (R) — African Champion Zamalek stayed top of the Egyptian soccer league with a 2-0 win over Itihad of Alexandria Tuesday night. It was the Cairo club's second win in two weeks, taking its points tally to 27, four ahead of city rival National. Zamalek beat National, three-time winners of the African Cup Winners' Cup, 1-0 last week.

Figure skating champion criticises Soviet training

MOSCOW (R) — Irina Rodnina, three times Olympic pairs figure skating champion, attacked Soviet training methods for turning young athletes into "mechanical soldiers."

Her comments Tuesday in the newspaper Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya came amid growing criticism in the official press of Soviet training methods despite sporting achievements which would delight most nations.

Rodnina, 37, who dominated pairs skating during the 1970s before becoming a coach, said a mania for records and success had taken all the joy out of Soviet sport.

"Leading sportsmen used to be moral figures. Now they are often called obedient mechanical soldiers who perform certain complicated movements better than the rest. The public is not interested in such sportsmen," said Rodnina.

Rodnina, winner of 10 successive world and European titles, said "record-mania" had led to a lowering of the age of sports stars and criticised coaches for putting success before athletes' health.

"We have turned sport into difficult, monotonous labour. We push performers who are still children into all kinds of competitions fraught with serious mental traumas and physical injuries," she said.

"I am against 15-year-old champions who mount the pedestal today only to disappear with-

Anti-smoking advocates bristle at new British tobacco advertising regulations

By Robert Millward
The Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Recent moves to reduce tobacco companies' sponsorship of sports in Britain were labelled a smokescreen by the anti-smoking lobby.

An agreement was announced between the government and the tobacco industry to curb sponsorship and cigarette advertising at sports events.

But while the tobacco companies said the cutbacks reflected their "responsible" attitude toward advertising their products, critics said the agreement gave the companies a license to encourage people to smoke.

The agreement runs through October 1989 and incorporates four major points:

— The tobacco companies agreed to a 10 per cent cut on overall spending on sports sponsorship;

— They will not sponsor events which are designed mainly to appeal to spectators under 18 years old;

— The size of health warnings on signs at televised events will be increased 50 per cent;

— There will be tighter controls on the placing of advertising signs at televised events.

Under the agreement, a monitoring committee also will be set up to make sure the tobacco

companies stick to their pledges.

The British tobacco industry is estimated to spend between £8-10 million (\$12-15 million) on sponsorship of sports events such as cricket, snooker, Grand Prix auto racing, rugby and darts.

In last year's budget it slapped a seven per cent increase on cigarette tax and Sports Minister Richard Tracey was told by the conservative government to seek an agreement with the tobacco companies to reduce sponsorship and advertising.

Clive Turner, spokesman for the Tobacco Advisory Council, which represents the companies, said the agreement reflected their "responsible" approach towards advertising their products.

Obviously we don't welcome these measures because they further restrict our advertising freedom. But we have to live with them," he said.

But the long-awaited agreement was slammed by the anti-smoking side.

The British Medical Association, which represents two-thirds of the nation's 100,000 doctors, said it was "a license to allow tobacco companies to continue to encourage millions of people to ignore the health hazards of smoking."

In a statement, the BMA said the companies' pledge not to sponsor events designed to appeal mainly to youngsters was

"a con."

"The industry is free to continue to sponsor sporting events watched by millions of children as well as adults, thereby linking a product which causes 100,000 premature U.K. (United Kingdom) deaths every year with glamour, heroes, fitness and with being adult," the medical association said.

David Player, director general of the Health Education Council, a government-appointed health watchdog, was quoted in press reports as saying it was "obscene" that the tobacco industry should continue to be associated with the health and fitness of the population.

The Sports Council, which funds and oversees most amateur sport in Britain, welcomed the new restrictions.

Two-time Olympic middle-distance track champion Sebastian Coe, in his role as vice-chairman of the Sports Council, was quoted as saying: "We believe the tobacco industry is an inappropriate sponsor."

Coe also welcomed separate moves by Britain's two major television organisations, the British Broadcasting Corporation and the Independent Broadcasting Authority, to reduce the tobacco sponsors' TV exposure by steering their cameras lenses clear of the adverts and avoiding shots of players smoking.

'Nasty' Nastase slams young tennis stars

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Nastase, the volatile Romanian tennis player who delighted fans for over a decade, has criticised today's young tennis players as lazy and mercenary.

"The players today are just in it for the money," Nastase, 40, told reporters after losing a friendly match Monday night 6-4, 6-2 to American Vitas Gerulaitis.

"The kids today are not in love with the game" said the original bad boy of tennis, who earned the nickname "Nasty" for his tantrums and playful antics with fans and officials.

"They complain about having to play in 14 tournaments a year. That's nothing. We used to play

25 or more," he said. Players on the circuit are required by the men's Professional Tennis Council to play in at least 14 tournaments a year. Officials want to increase the number to 16, a move some of the top players have protested.

Nastase said today's top players only enter the big money tournaments.

"These guys make millions, but you never see a big name in a small tournament," Nastase said.

"Players should be signed to contracts by the tournaments and paid up front so they have to play certain events. Twenty tournaments a year would be fair," Nastase said.

McEnroe beats Wilander in exhibition match

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — John McEnroe relied on a strong game at the net Tuesday night to defeat Mats Wilander 6-4, 6-4, in a Davis Cup-style exhibition between the United States and Sweden.

McEnroe, ranked 14th by the Association of Tennis Professionals, said he was regaining his past form.

"I think I made some positive steps and I'm going in the right direction," McEnroe said.

McEnroe returned to the professional tour last August after taking 6 months away from tennis to devote to his family.

McEnroe said he plans to play at Wimbledon and the French Open this year.

Wilander, ranked third by the ATP, is in the early stages of a return to the tour after his marriage earlier this month.

He said he thought the layoff had hurt his game in the short run, but he predicted it would improve over the long term.

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The American Embassy is updating its registry of American citizens living in Jordan.

If you are not registered, or have been registered for a year or more and have not confirmed your continuing presence in Jordan, please do so by contacting the Consular Section as soon as possible. Please also notify the Consular Section about any changes of address and telephone number. If names are not re-registered within three months the Embassy will consider that those concerned have left Jordan, and their names will be deleted from our registration files.

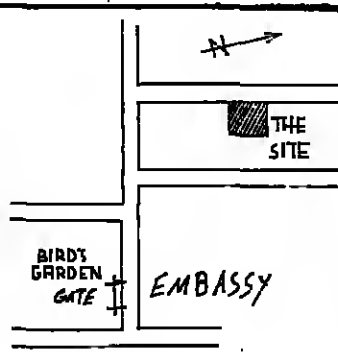
Please bear in mind that the Embassy will be better able to assist you, should the need arise, if you are properly registered.

The American Embassy is located between Second and Third Circle. The telephone number is 644371 ext. 230. The Consular Section is open Sunday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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TENDER NO. 25123/01 EXTENSION FOR CLOSING DATE

The Irbid District Electricity Company Ltd. (IDECO) announces that the closing date for the above tender has been extended to 12.00 hours on 18th February 1987 instead of 2nd February 1987.

وزارة الاشغال العامة

دائرة العطاءات الحكومية

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

Addendum (1)

Subject: Central Tenders No. (11/87, 12/87) AQABA BACK-ROAD PROJECT

1. The deadline for obtaining documents in Amman is Feb. 14th 1987.
2. The tenders shall be submitted to the Government Tender Directorate in Amman on Sat. Feb. 28th, 1987.

Deputy of Director of Government
Tenders Directorate
Engineer Salim Quda

وزارة الاشغال العامة

دائرة العطاءات الحكومية

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

Addendum to Invitation to Tender Health Centres in Irbid & Mafrq Central Tender No. 9/86

1. Last day for purchase of tender sets is postponed to 14 Feb. 1987 instead of 16 Jan. 1987.
2. Tenders shall be deposited at the Govt. Tenders Directorate 12 noon on Sat. 21 Feb. 1987 instead of Sat. 31st Jan. 1987.

Chairman Central Tenders Committee
Director, Govt. Tenders Directorate

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PEOPLE



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Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

NEW KID



Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 622198

RAGHADAN

POLICE
STORY



Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 8:00

Reagan admits mistakes but defends Iran arms deal

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has told Congress that serious mistakes were made in carrying out his Iran arms policy but he defended the secret deals that plunged the White House into the worst crisis of his administration.

In what was regarded by many as his most important State of the Union Address, Mr. Reagan said he regretted the arms plan did not work but he defended his attempts to reestablish contacts with Iran and free American hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian factions.

He mentioned the Iran affair briefly Tuesday night and sketched only several new domestic legislative priorities — such as trade, welfare and health insurance — that he will propose over the next few weeks.

It was a typical upbeat Reagan address that focused on the future when many members of Congress wanted to hear how the president became involved in the biggest public crisis of the recent past.

Mr. Reagan, making his first public appearance since prostate surgery, was warmly applauded as he repeated old themes about balancing the budget despite his own record of doubling the national debt.

Congressmen said Mr. Reagan, who turns 76 next week, appeared vigorous and in charge.

despite the operation on Jan. 4. Mr. Reagan pressed for his controversial "Star Wars" space defense initiative and defended U.S. support for rebels in Nicaragua and Afghanistan, but lawmakers said it was Iran that dominated their attention.

Some key members of Congress said Mr. Reagan's acknowledgment of full responsibility for the Iran affair and his statement that serious mistakes were made fell far short of what they expected.

Congressmen investigating the scandal have charged that the administration should never have entered into any arms deals with Iran, listed by Washington as a terrorist state since it seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979 and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

Mr. Reagan pointed to what he said were achievements of his administration in keeping peace in the world and building up defenses in six years.

"But though we have made much progress, I have one major regret," he said. "I took a risk with regard to our action in Iran."

It did not work, and for that I assume full responsibility.

He continued: "The goals were worthy. I do not believe it was wrong to try to establish contacts with a country of strategic importance or to try to save lives. And certainly it was not wrong to try to secure freedom for our citizens held in barbaric captivity. But we did not achieve what we wished, and serious mistakes were made in trying to do so."

His statement of "serious mistakes" was a change from only three months ago after the scandal broke over the Iranian arms deal and alleged diversion of profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

At a news conference on Nov. 19, Mr. Reagan said that "I don't think a mistake was made... It was a high risk gamble and it was a gamble that... I believe the circumstances warranted, and I don't see that it has been a fiasco or a great failure of any kind."

After the speech, some members of Congress said they were left dissatisfied.

"It was ridiculous," said the former chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Democrat Patrick Leahy.

"We've had our worst foreign policy disaster in decades and they're treating it as one-liner," he said. "They can't seem to understand it is not a public policy problem but a foreign policy disaster."

Even Mr. Reagan's staunchest supporters wanted to hear more about the foreign policy problem. "We would have liked to have more said about it," said House Republican leader Bob Michel.

Republican congresswoman Olympia Snow of Maine told reporters: "I was pleased he acknowledged responsibility. It was an important statement. I would have preferred that he would apologize."

In an official Democratic response, House Speaker Jim Wright and Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd pledged cooperation with Mr. Reagan but urged him to sit down with the Democrats who control both houses of Congress now for the first time since Mr. Reagan entered office in 1981.

Republican Senator Gordon Humphrey said: "I hope his mea culpa with regard to the Iran mess will put that behind him."

Few believe it will, however, since both the Senate and House have set up special investigating committees that will hold public hearings in March.

Mr. Reagan was interviewed on Monday by a three-man committee he had appointed to investigate the National Security Council, which carried out the arms policy apparently over the objections of Secretary of State George Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Fewer ships, aircraft lost in 1986—insurers

LONDON (R) — Fewer air crashes were reported and fewer ships sank around the world last year, although twice as many merchant vessels were attacked in the Gulf, the association grouping London's insurance companies has said.

But a fire last August on a Dutch submarine, the Walrus, may lead to the biggest marine insurance claim ever, with damage estimated at £85 million (\$130 million), the Institute of London Underwriters' (ILU) annual report said.

The fire occurred as the vessel neared completion. It is normal practice for navies to insure warships during building.

A total of 15 Western-built jet airliners, worth \$119 million in all, were total losses last year compared with 18 worth \$400 million in 1985, which was the worst year in aviation history for insurers, the report said.

Comparing incidents in which people were killed, the institute recorded 392 deaths in eight air disasters last year, compared with 1,534 deaths in 11 incidents in 1985.

The report said 156 ships were reported lost last year, against 189 in 1985, but the tonnage involved was only slightly lower at 1.2 million gross registered tonnes against 1.3 million.

The ILU figures are virtually all-inclusive on shipping accidents, but reliable information on air disasters in the Communist World is not always available, ILU officials said.

tonnes or more attacked in the Gulf last year as a result of the Iran-Iraq war was estimated by the ILU at 98. Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence has said 47 ships of all sizes were attacked in the Gulf in 1985.

The insurance market of London, traditionally the world's centre for marine and aviation coverage, is divided between insurance firms, mostly grouped in the ILU, and Lloyd's, a 300-year-old body in which rich individuals back policies.

Reviewing last year, ILU Chairman David Lowen said the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Soviet Union would have had far more serious consequences for marine insurers, in destroying food cargoes, but for weather that scattered the radiation.

ILU officials said Chernobyl had prompted insurers, who already routinely exclude the effects of nuclear bombs from their policies, to consider excluding nuclear accidents as well.

Commenting on the Gulf casualties, ILU official Tony Nunn said many of the tankers which were attacked while shuttling Iranian oil through the northern Gulf had been of low value and in some cases they were not covered by insurance in London.

Lowen said he could not support the idea of navies from outside the region offering protection to merchant ships in the Gulf, since this could lead to an escalation of the war.

COLUMNS 7&8

Bad weather delays weather report

WASHINGTON (R) — Heavy snowfalls have thrown the U.S. government behind schedule — including its official world weather forecasts. A weekly report on global weather, released jointly by the Agriculture Department and the National Weather Service, has been held up for a day because government workers involved in the project were stuck at home, officials said. Storms last Thursday and Sunday dumped over 18 inches of snow at Washington's National airport and other areas, according to official measurements. The government sent its workers home early on Thursday and have granted most personnel permission to stay home since then in an effort to ease the strain on Washington's snow-saturated streets and transport systems.

Soviets to screen America miniseries

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The Soviet Union said Tuesday it will show "America" on state television. It said viewers may react with "wrath and indignation" to the U.S. miniseries about a fictional Soviet takeover of the United States. Yuri B. Kashlev announced plans to air the programme at the Helsinki follow-up conference on human rights, East-West relations and cultural and economic cooperation. He is head of the Soviet delegation. "In Moscow, we have decided to buy this outrageous TV series and show it to our TV viewers," Kashlev told conference delegates. "We are not afraid of American fabrications. We are only afraid that such a film will give rise to wrath and indignation."

Portugal, Spain to fight drugs

LISBON (R) — Portugal and Spain have agreed to step up cooperation against drug trafficking and to study joint programmes for the rehabilitation of drug users, officials said. The agreement provides for tighter controls at airports, ports and frontiers, and more collaboration between police forces fighting trafficking in drugs such as hashish, heroin and cocaine in both Iberian countries. The renewable, five-year accord was signed in Lisbon by Portuguese Foreign Minister Pedro Pires de Miranda and Spanish Health Minister Julian Garcia Vargas.

Cure found for jellyfish sting

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian research company today announced a breakthrough in the prevention and treatment of the lethal box jellyfish sting. Monoclonal Australia said it had used antibodies to make an antidote which had proved effective in laboratory tests and when injected into animals. "The other important aspect of our breakthrough is that the same antibodies may be used for diagnosis and treatment," said managing director Alessandra Pucci. The company is now working to find a way to inject antibodies into the human body quickly and without pain, she added.

30 killed by illegal liquor in India

MADRAS, India (R) — At least 30 people were killed and 40 blinded because of drinking illegally distilled liquor in this south Indian port, police said on Wednesday. It was the first case of liquor poisoning since January 1 when the Tamil Nadu state government closed down 16,000 shops selling arrack and toddy, cheap drinks brewed from the coco-palm. Other forms of dearer liquor are still on sale. Police said more than 200 people drank the home-made liquor last Saturday and they expected more deaths.

Baker reportedly turned down offer to replace Casey

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — A newspaper reported Tuesday that former Sen. Howard Baker Jr. turned down President Ronald Reagan's offer to become director of the CIA, saying he wasn't really interested in the job.

Baker said in an interview with the Knoxville News-Sentinel that he turned down the president after Mr. Reagan's chief of staff, Donald Regan, asked him to succeed CIA Director William Casey, who is recuperating from brain surgery.

"I just don't want to do that. I've got other things I can do with my life, and I'm not sure how good I would be" as head of the

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Mr. Baker told the News-Sentinel from his Washington law office.

Mr. Baker said Mr. Reagan was disappointed but understood the decision. White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Baker previously that Mr. Reagan discussed the CIA post with Mr. Baker.

Mr. Baker, a three-term Republican senator from Tennessee, returned to private law practice after serving five years as senate majority leader. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Republican nomination for president in 1980 and is considering another run in 1988.

More than 15 killed in fresh Sri Lankan fighting

COLOMBO (R) — More than 15 people were killed during fresh fighting between police commandos and Tamil separatists Wednesday in Sri Lanka's eastern district of Batticaloa, officials and residents said.

A government statement said eight rebels who fired at a security convoy were shot dead but some commandos were also killed in the fighting at Kokkadicholai, about 10 kilometres south-west of Batticaloa.

It said some civilians were also killed in crossfire. No details of casualties among the commandos were given.

Batticaloa residents told Reuters by telephone that at least seven commandos were killed in the incident when their armoured personnel carrier (APC) was

blasted by a powerful rebel landmine. The vehicle was wrecked in the blast.

Residents said the fighting occurred at dawn with about 100 troops involved in a combat operation in the area supported by military vehicles and helicopter support.

This is the latest battle in a four-year bid by Tamil separatists to carve out a separate state in the north and east of Sri Lanka for the island's 2.5 million minority Tamils.

Police arrested three men Tuesday in connection with the discovery of explosive devices found in Colombo on Sunday.

Investigators said the men, belonging to Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of students' rebel group, had planned to bomb various parts of the city.

Soviets name cosmonauts for next mission to Mir

MOSCOW (AP) — Two cosmonauts, a rookie (novice) and a veteran making his first space trip in more than nine years, are in final preparations for a flight to the Mir space laboratory, TASS reported Wednesday.

The Soviet News Agency did not say when Cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Alexander Laveikin would blast off, but said they were undergoing "final training and medical checkups" at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Central Asia.

Earlier press reports said the Mir station, which has been unmanned since Leonid Kizim and Vladimir Solovov returned on July 16, was resupplied this month by an unmanned Progress cargo vessel.

The 42-year-old Romanenko, who was commander of one of the backup crews for the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz mission, was com-

mander of the flight of the Soyuz 26 spacecraft in 1977 and trained for work on the precursors of the Mir station, the Salyut-6 and Salyut-7.

TASS did not say how long the two cosmonauts would stay aboard, but previous press reports have said they will be joined for a few days by a Soviet-Syrian crew. Although the Soviets say they are no longer seeking to establish new endurance records in space, their missions normally last several months.

Romanenko and Laveikin, who will be making his first trip into orbit, are to fly to the Mir station aboard a new-generation capsule, the Soyuz TM-2.

The first model of the Soyuz TM series, which replaces the old Soyuz T, was tested in May 1986 with an unmanned flight and automatic docking with the Mir station.

French Communist Party hit by veterans' resignations

PARIS (R) — A long-simmering dispute between hard-liners and reformers in France's Communist Party has erupted into a crisis with the resignation of two influential veterans.

The deepening split in the party, which has been weakened by steady electoral decline over past years, overshadowed the two-day central committee meeting which ended Tuesday and was intended to plan strategy for 1988 presidential elections.

The two leading members who resigned represented a dissident wing which has called for changes in the party's rigid structure, more open discussion and an end to its unshakable loyalty to Moscow in an effort to stem the loss of votes.

Wartime resistance hero Marcel Rigout, one of four Communists to serve as ministers in the previous left-wing government, quit his position on the central committee Tuesday in protest against the hard-line leadership.

He also offered to step down as one of only 35 Communist deputies elected to France's 577-member national assembly last March.

Rigout's resignation came only a day after veteran activist

Claude Poperen quit his political position.

Under Mr. Marchais' 17-year leadership, the Communists' share of the national vote has plummeted from around 25 per cent to under 10 per cent in parliamentary elections last March.

Dissatisfaction at the top of the party with Marchais' rule, particularly his pro-Soviet stance, has been matched by growing grassroots dissent.

Leading reformist Pierre Juquin said on French television on Tuesday: "I think that the current Communist leadership is not only out of touch with society but part of it is also cut off from its own party. At the base there are thousands of people who will not stand for these insults and these exclusions."

Mr. Rigout and Mr. Poperen resigned after the central committee rejected complaints against Mr. Marchais' description of reform-minded dissenters as "liquidators."

In a letter read to some 140 committee members on Monday, Mr. Rigout criticised Mr. Marchais' attacks on the reformists and accused party of stifling dissent.

U.K. to assess risk from killer radioactive gas

LONDON (R) — Britain has said it would mount a major survey to assess the threat from radon — a colourless and odourless radioactive gas reported to be killing up to 900 people a year in this country.

Environment Minister William Waldegrave told parliament that the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) would examine houses in areas thought to be affected by radon seeping through their foundations.

Radon, caused by the natural decay of uranium, is mostly found in granite areas. It decays into minute solid particles which, if inhaled, get into the lungs and

can cause health problems over long periods of exposure.

Around 20,000 properties — most in the south west counties of Devon and Cornwall — are estimated to have above average concentrations of the gas.

An NRPB spokesman said that radon could be responsible for between 800 and 900 deaths each year in Britain. The survey would take two years to complete.

Mr. Waldegrave said the government would give money to householders who need to seal off their homes against the gas and introduce regulations to stop the problem recurring in new buildings.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etneson

LITERALLY SPEAKING

By Olive Dunn

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3 Dilemma
4 Mediation
5 Popped up
6 Canoe down
7 Eye level
8 River in Fr.
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14 (Shaping tag)
15 Alarming
16 Circumstance
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18 General
19 Rowing team
20 "Gloria"

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14 "Eve"
15 Drive
16 Rip
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18 Life of Riley
19 Commander

Diagrams

19 X 19, by Donald C. McMillan

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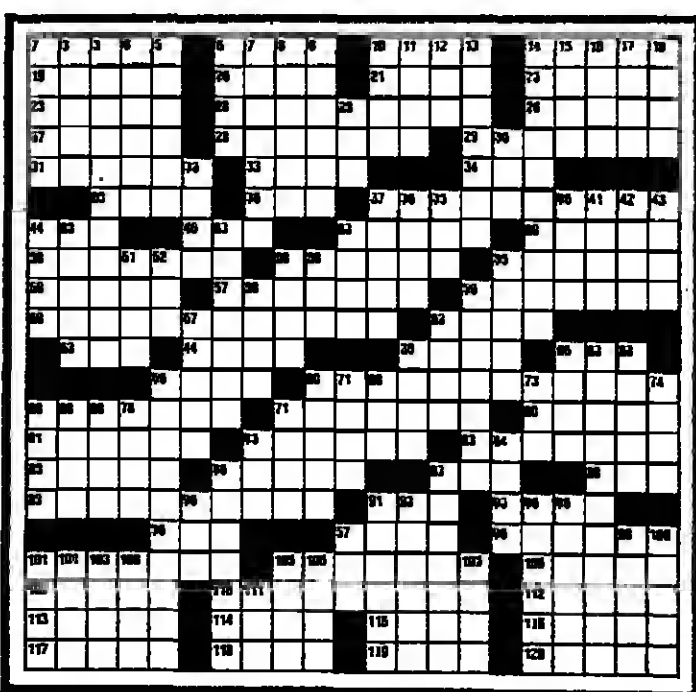
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Last Week's Cryptograms

- Will our "wreckless" drivers ever receive the kind of insurance rates these fine records earn?
- Rare coin collections brought in highest bidders at big auction.
- Sleepy mandrill eyes mandarin playing pop songs.
- Those incipient buds on our bare privet hedges afford advanced sign of spring.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. IOALRCAD FR IOVOCF LRLMHDI AMIGOS
CLUOK "TIBOCKA BCK YDUARS" FNO URAF
VNOIBANOK GDRMO. —By Martha F. Gerner
2. "STIRLUPK LUN TOPTAK" MAD BENG
PH STINK BT SENKEN KLIRYK. DENG
GLC MN RUNDG TOTUTAK LE RNTY. —By Len Sherry

3. ZWOTFLPPGHOP GWWA EHP FRAL HCILF
JL HIL ZPRAL CWWA IJHI EEP OW TWWE. —By Alvin B. Lebar

4. WHEN MST, PEST HE L OST. OKYCKU MN
WOSPWN GRU CLASSY AKLEKO. —By Ed Haddison



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 754
♥ Q85
♦ 10876
♣ 102

WEST
♠ A32
♥ K2
♦ AQJ53
♣ J9

EAST
♠ 6
♥ 108843
♦ 2
♣ 878543

SOUTH
♠ KJ1098
♥ A7
♦ K4
♣ AKQ

The bidding:
West North East South
1♣ Pass Pass Dble
3♣ Pass Pass 3♣
Pass 4♣ Pass 4♣
Opening lead: Two of ♠

The auction will often reveal the location of key cards. It's silly to ignore the information you have been given.

South was too strong for any action other than a double at his first turn. West tried to make life difficult for his opponents with his jump to three diamonds, but South had too much to be shut out. Four trumps to the queen and a ruffing value in clubs were ample for a